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QUEEN VICTORIA

HER LIFE AND REIGN



BARON STOCKMAR

STATE PROCESSION THROUGH EDINBURGH
SEPTEMBER, 1842

The monarch's Body-Guard for Scotland is the Royal Company of Archers, the oldest corps of its kind in the kingdom. It is composed entirely of noblemen and gentlemen, and its affairs are managed by a Council. Its officials are the captain-general, who is always a peer of the highest rank, four captains, three lieutenants, four ensigns, thirteen brigadiers, an adjutant, and a surgeon. Owing to the destruction by fire of its records, early in the eighteenth century, its earlier history is not now fully ascertainable. It can be traced, however, back to 1676, and it often met during the reigns of Charles II and James II, but it was not made a royal company till 1704. During the Jacobite disturbances of the first half of the eighteenth century the company was "a marked muster for the House of Stuart". The company has annual meetings at which silver arrows and other prizes are shot for, but it has now only occasional formal public functions to discharge. The illustration shows one of the company's chief public appearances during last century.



STATE PROCESSION THROUGH EDINBURGH, September, 1812
ESCORT OF ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS (THE QUEEN'S BODY-GUARD FOR SCOTLAND)

FROM THE DRAWING BY WAL PAGET



QUEEN VICTORIA TAKING THE CORONATION OATH

FROM THE PICTURE BY SIR GEORGE HAYTER
PRINCIPAL PINTER IN ORDINARY TO THE QUEEN



QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISIT TO FRANCE, September, 1843

THE MEETING OF HER MAJESTY AND KING LOUIS PHILIPPE ON BOARD THE "VICTORIA AND ALBERT"

FROM THE DRAWING BY WAL PAGET

QUEEN VICTORIA TAKING THE CORONATION OATH

Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, but she was not crowned until the customary twelve months' mourning for the late king were completed. The preparations for the coronation were on a scale of unprecedented grandeur, and unbounded enthusiasm was displayed by everybody on the great day. A splendid public procession was organized, in the midst of which the Queen, in a state-coach drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, drove from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. On alighting her Majesty was invested with the royal robes of crimson velvet and ermine bordered with gold lace, and also with the collars of the Orders of the Garter, Bath, Thistle, and St. Patrick. On her head was placed a circlet of gold. The procession then moved on towards the choir, where the coronation took place. The plate, after the picture by Sir George Hayter, shows the Queen reciting the words of the oath.



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OSBORNE HOUSE

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY FORT



THE FOUR PRINCESSES

PRINCESS ROYAL, PRINCESS ALICE, PRINCESS HELENA, AND PRINCESS LOUISE

FROM THE PICTURE BY WINTERHALTER

QUEEN VICTORIA HER LIFE AND REIGN

BY

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QUEEN VICTORIA:

HER LIFE AND REIGN.

CHAPTER IV.

Prince Albert. Characteristics. Difficulties. Studies. Recreations. Public Duties. Royal Household. Peril. Birth of Princess Royal. The Boy Jones. Change of Ministry. Domestic Life. Royal Excursions. Birth of Prince of Wales. The Royal Christening. Art and Music. First Visit to Scotland. Visit to France. Belgium. Birth of Princess Alice. Leading Events. Birth of Prince Alfred. Osborne. Visit to Germany.

“ **T**HIS position is a most peculiar and delicate one. Whilst a female sovereign has a great many disadvantages in comparison with a king, yet, if she is married, and her husband understands and does his duty, her position, on the other hand, has many compensating advantages, and in the long-run will be found even to be stronger than that of a male sovereign. But this requires that the husband should entirely sink his own individual existence in that of his wife—that he should aim at no power by himself or for himself—should shun all ostentation—assume no separate responsibility before the public, but make his position entirely a part of hers—fill up every gap which, as a woman, she would naturally leave in the exercise of her regal functions—continually and anxiously watch every part of the public business, in order to be able to advise and assist her at any moment in any of the multifarious and difficult questions or duties brought before her, sometimes international, sometimes political, or social, or personal. As the natural head of her family, superintendent

of her household, manager of her private affairs, sole confidential adviser in politics, and only assistant in her communications with the officers of the government, he is, besides the husband of the Queen, the tutor of the royal children, the private secretary of the sovereign, and her permanent minister."

This is the view which the Prince Consort held of the duties and responsibilities that he had undertaken. The words quoted were not written in this form till 1850, when they stood as part of an important letter to the Duke of Wellington, and were among the most prominent reasons for the refusal of the Prince to accept the office of commander-in-chief of the army; but these few sentences may be said to represent the scheme and purpose of his life in relation to the Queen and to the country, from the time that he first contemplated the obligations which his marriage would demand. He had set himself seriously to achieve a noble self-effacement, to attain to a truly princely character; and from the beginning he was prepared to give a subordinate place to some of those studies and attainments in which he delighted, and to devote himself to the less attractive subjects that demanded his earnest attention. Writing to Baron Stockmar when the marriage was first decided on he had said: "I have laid to heart your friendly and kind-hearted advice as to the true foundation on which my future happiness must rest, and it agrees entirely with the principles of action which I had already privately formed for myself. A character which shall win the respect, the love, and the confidence of the Queen and of the nation, must be the foundation of my position. This character gives security for the disposition which prompts the actions, and even should mistakes occur they will be more easily pardoned on account of that personal character; while even the most noble and beautiful undertakings fail to secure support

to a man who is not capable of inspiring that confidence." This resolution continued to be the mainspring of the Prince's endeavours, and enabled him to overcome difficulties which might have caused him to falter but for the high moral standard to which he strove to attain.

For a prince at twenty years of age—whose acquirements, though considerable, had been rather in the direction of general culture than of severe learning—to devote himself to studies for which he had shown little liking, that he might gain sound and adequate knowledge of the political conditions and constitution of a country where he had decided to aspire to no conspicuous responsible political position, was at least remarkable. An excellent musician, an artist of no small proficiency, and with a rare faculty of perception which afterwards enabled him to promote the useful application of science and the arts to everyday life, the Prince had previously shown no disposition to trouble himself with political matters. Important events of this kind had not induced him even to read the newspapers; and yet we find him only a short time after his marriage strenuously engaged in making himself thoroughly acquainted with the questions in which he would require to have an intelligent interest and the ability to discuss them with equal tact and judgment. But it was for maturity of judgment that the young Prince was distinguished, and this was associated with intellectual adroitness and that kind of mental activity which in some persons leads to a talent for repartee, and in his case frequently suggested the comic or humorous treatment of subjects which were not too grave for jesting, and a good-natured "taking off" of people's peculiarities which was never employed to hurt the feelings of anyone who came under his observation. There was a great deal of fun in the Prince—fun of the simple German sort—which in early

days occasionally took the form of harmless practical joking. This, however, was among his own circle; he was seldom able to overcome a certain reserve amidst a number of people at any large assembly. He was not a society prince in the sense of being able to join with *abandon* in the diversions of a large and fashionable party, and consequently he was sometimes suspected of being cold, formal, and indifferent, if not unapproachable; but this was only by people who did not know him well and had no opportunity of seeing him under circumstances when he was less restrained by the conventional routine of society. His natural manner was amiable and cheerful enough, and he was said to have possessed what may be called comic talents of a very rare degree, and to have a lively habit of changing from one subject of conversation to another with peculiar facility.

It may easily be understood that the estimate of the Prince's manner and accomplishments varied considerably; but it is certain that everyone who came frequently or familiarly within his influence regarded him with admiration and mostly with respectful affection. There was nothing base in him. With the largest toleration and pity for the weak and erring, he was a man of true purity of life and conduct. The simplicity of childhood remained in his moral nature, along with an acute perception and a habit of observation. His brother and all his early companions bore testimony to his single-mindedness, to his aversion to the vices which so frequently beset young men in the position in which he was placed; but just as there was no priggish and uncharitable pretension to exceptional virtue in his manners, there was no assumption of peculiar piety in his religion, which was a deep and abiding principle, inseparable from his daily life, and giving earnestness, breadth, and repose to his whole character. "Treu und Fest" was the motto of his house;

and with truth and firmness he entered on the high trust that he had undertaken; with truth and firmness he discharged duties that grew more and more arduous—too arduous sometimes for his strength, for, active as he was, the Prince had a weakness of constitution which even in early years caused him to appear pale and exhausted after unusual or protracted exertion. Stockmar attributed what appears to have been a lack of nerve power to want of attention to digestion, and probably the indifference of the Prince to eating and drinking, and a habit of getting meals over as soon as possible, may have had something to do with it; but at any rate he ceased to spare himself exertion when the responsibilities he had incurred demanded constant attention and often arduous work.

We have already seen that the Prince had to encounter difficulties and vexations at the very outset, but in accordance with the determination he had formed he gave them no personal significance. He quickly learned to estimate the effects of that free party strife which belongs to English political life, and to divest apparently adverse criticisms and temporary opposition of any personal bitterness of feeling; nor was his a temper and disposition that would be moved to anger, much less to animosity, by any merely selfish considerations. He was prepared, too, to make allowance for misunderstandings and even for misrepresentations; but the objections which he had anticipated would be made to him as "a foreigner," still speaking English with a slight German accent, and the aspersions on his character that were uttered by those who lived amidst detraction, were soon dispersed by the hearty welcome accorded to him as soon as the English people began to know and understand him and to appreciate the earnestness with which he was always ready to promote works of public utility and beneficence.

He was not, and did not assume to be, an orator, but his speeches were distinguished for remarkable condensation. Few men could in a few pregnant and telling words better indicate the subject and aim of what had to be said than the Prince, who seldom or never spoke at any length, and yet impressed his auditory with the significant common-sense that characterized his well-chosen comments. Of course after a few months he became more at ease both with the language in which he spoke and with the audiences he addressed, but he always had to speak under certain restraints, since the position that he occupied caused his words to be watched with unusual attention, and he had to avoid expressions that could be held to identify him with any party or section of the community. From the very first, however, he succeeded in being at once dignified, explicit, and impressive. Even the few words which he spoke on the 1st of June, 1840, at a meeting to promote the abolition of the slave-trade, showed something of these qualities: "I have been induced to preside at the meeting of this society from a conviction of its paramount importance to the great interests of humanity and justice. I deeply regret that the benevolent and persevering exertions of England to abolish that atrocious traffic in human beings (at once the desolation of Africa and the blackest stain upon civilized Europe) have not as yet led to any satisfactory conclusion. But I sincerely trust that this great country will not relax in its efforts until it has finally and for ever put an end to a state of things so repugnant to the spirit of Christianity and the best feelings of our nature. Let us, therefore, trust that Providence will prosper our exertions in so holy a cause, and that (under the auspices of the Queen and her government) we may at no distant period be rewarded by the accomplishment of the great and humane object for the promo-

tion of which we have this day met." This was the first time the Prince had spoken to a large English audience, and he was naturally nervous, knowing how eagerly and how critically his essay in what to him was still a foreign tongue would be listened to; the few words were therefore written and committed to memory, but they were his own, and they display his remarkable faculty of touching the predominant notes of a subject and presenting it completely and harmoniously to the common appreciation.

The attainments of the Prince in the arts of music and painting had already become known, and it was not long before he was requested to undertake duties which would enable him to use his influence in promoting their wider cultivation in this country. Only middle-aged people will now remember the "Antient Concerts," a series of performances given each year by a society formed for the purpose of maintaining a taste for what has been called "classical" music. The frequently large audiences which attended these concerts were rather fashionable than what is known as popular, but it soon became evident that the works of eminent composers were not altogether unknown to middle-class English people, or, at all events, that they would be appreciated by other than merely dilettante admirers. Prince Albert was requested to become a director of the "Antient Concerts," and as each director had in turn to arrange a concert, he took great pains to prepare a thoroughly representative performance, which, while it was in the best sense classical, was so inclusive as to recognize the value of the truly popular element in some of the works of the great masters. Perhaps no one who was not himself a practical musician as well as an accomplished judge of the art could have selected such a programme, in which Haydn, Pergolesi, Handel, Mozart,

Palestrina, Glück, Cherubini, Graun, Purcell, Arne, Beethoven, and Bach were represented by those compositions which seemed most effectually to display their peculiar qualities, while the inclusion of Lord Mornington's charming glee, "Here in cool grot," seemed to give a hint that England only needed a revival to resume her place as a musical nation, famous for that truly popular exposition of the art once expressed in glees, part-songs, and madrigals.

We have already noted how the recreations of the Queen and the Prince included drawing or sketching, playing or singing together. Music was, to both, a means of expressing deep sentiment; and the practice of sketching and painting was the outcome of an eye for and an honest appreciation of the beauties of external nature. With the Prince music was a delight. Seated at an organ which had been placed in one of the rooms at Windsor Castle, he forgot troubles and worries, and lost himself in serene and happy dreams, of which the instrument under his masterly hand became the exponent.

Lady Lyttelton, writing from Windsor on the 9th of October, 1840, said. "Yesterday evening, as I was sitting here comfortably after the drive, by candle-light reading M. Guizot, suddenly there arose from the room beneath, oh, such sounds! . . . It was Prince Albert, dear Prince Albert, playing on the organ; and with such master skill, as it appeared to me, modulating so learnedly, winding through every kind of bass and chord till he wound up into the most perfect cadence, and then off again, louder and then softer. No tune, and I am too distant to perceive the execution of small touches, so I only heard the harmony, but I never listened with much more pleasure to any music. I ventured at dinner to ask him what I had heard. 'Oh, my organ! A new possession of mine. I

am so fond of the organ. It is the first of instruments; the only instrument for expressing one's feelings.' (I thought, are they not good feelings that the organ expresses?) 'And it teaches to play; for on the organ a *mistake*—oh, such misery!' And he quite shuddered at the thought of the *sostenuto* discord."

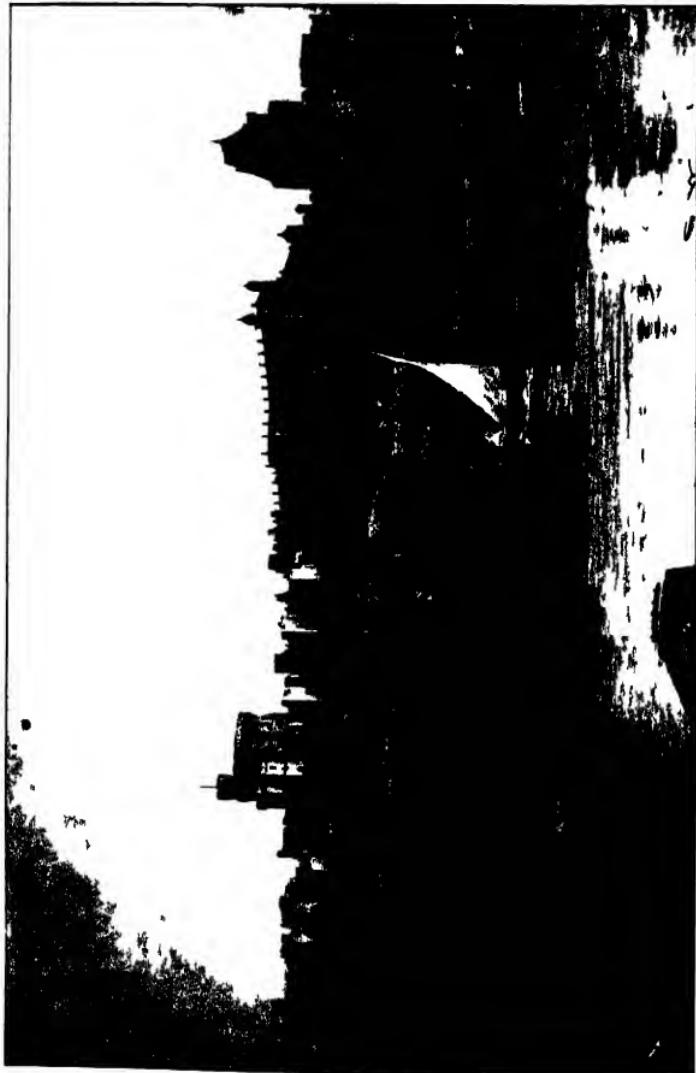
The domestic life at Windsor suited the Prince better than the late hours and excitement of London, where levées, receptions, festivities, and public ceremonials were almost the only change from the study of important questions and the official business which belonged to his position. Coming, as he had, from a quiet, if not a secluded, life, in which he had few public duties and none of the cares of government, the strain upon his attention and even upon his strength was considerable, and he found the late hours to which the assemblies and entertainments were prolonged particularly trying, while his retiring disposition made it difficult for him to keep up what may be called a propitiatory demeanour to crowds of people, many individuals among whom it was necessary that he should remember and converse with. But his really amiable disposition, his calm conciliatory temper, and a desire not to appear to shrink from any duty however arduous—even the duty of participating in fashionable amusements—carried him through; and his personal attributes gained the admiration and good-will of people of various conditions and of all degrees of mental culture. At Windsor he could enjoy comparative retirement; the fine air suited him when he escaped from the smoky, heavy atmosphere of London, to which he never could grow completely accustomed. In London, however, he had contrived to make something of an earthly paradise in the beautiful park-like gardens at Buckingham Palace. His love for and knowledge of natural history came to his aid, and he "enlivened" the grounds with all sorts of animals and rare

aquatic birds. For landscape-gardening he had a genius which he may have inherited from his father, but which had certainly been developed by his contemplations of the pleasaunces of Thuringia, and it found scope at Windsor in making improvements in the beautiful pleasure-grounds around the castle, and laying out with plants, &c., a long green space below the terrace on the top of the hill where a number of old trees stood. The well-known "fishing temple" and the cottage of George the Fourth were to have been "improved off the face of the earth," but he had prevented this order from being carried out. Another pleasant occupation was that of forming a pretty little stud of all the Arab horses which had at different times been presented to the Queen. The Prince, like the Queen, was exceedingly fond of horses, and, indeed, of animals generally; and he was such an excellent equestrian that it was the cause of considerable amusement to her Majesty and himself to find this accomplishment very efficacious in gaining the respect and esteem of the gentlemen who were present on hunting days, when the Prince was among the best riders on the field.

His Royal Highness met with what might have been a very serious accident on the way to one of the first hunt meetings he attended, on the Easter after the royal marriage. A stag-hunt was to be held on Ascot Heath, whither the Queen was to follow with Prince Ernest in a pony carriage. As her Majesty stood at one of the windows at Windsor Castle she saw that Prince Albert was riding a skittish and excited if not a vicious horse, which went at a canter, and in spite of being turned round several times continued to bolt at the top of his speed towards the trees of the park. The Prince saw in front of him a tree with a projecting branch, and raised his arm to protect himself from too severe a collision against it, with the result that his

WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor, in Berkshire, pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Thames, has a royal connection dating back beyond the Norman Conquest. The oldest portion of the present castle, namely the Round Tower, was built by William the Conqueror, and the building was improved and added to by successive sovereigns until it became the stately pile which is shown in the accompanying plate. Windsor Castle is now the principal royal residence in the country. It is surrounded by splendid grounds, known as the Home Park, and is connected with the Great Park by the famous Long Walk, an avenue of elms three miles in length. The mausoleum containing the remains of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort is at Frogmore, in the Home Park. The castle has many interesting historical associations.



WINDSOR CASTLE

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY VALENTINE & SONS DUNDEE

arm was much hurt and he lost his seat, falling rather heavily to the ground. The Queen, who saw only the beginning of the accident, was in great anxiety till she heard from one of the grooms that the Prince mounted a fresh horse and rode to the hunt. He met her on her arrival at the Heath and led her up to the large stand. He had been anxious lest she should have felt frightened on seeing the horse beyond control, but the injury he had received, though painful, was confined to a severe grazing of the arm and some bruises on the hip and knee. These and a torn and earth-stained coat were the worst results, but it was a narrow escape.

Among the memoranda relating to the domestic life at Windsor at this time is one which is touched with a serene solemnity. In one of the latest letters written from "dear old Coburg" by the Prince to her who was then awaiting his return to England to claim her as his bride, he had mentioned that in an hour he would be in the church at Coburg, where he was to take the sacrament, and with deep feeling he added: "God will not take it amiss if in that serious act, even at the altar, I think of you, for I will pray to him for you and for your soul's health, and he will not refuse us his blessing."

*At Eastertide, 1840, they partook of the holy communion together for the first time, and we are allowed to know that the Prince had a very strong feeling about the solemnity of the act, and did not like to appear in company either the evening before or on the day on which he took the sacrament, he and the Queen almost always dining alone on those occasions. In recording one such quiet hallowed season, her Majesty says: "We two dined together. Albert likes being quite alone before he takes the sacrament; we played part of Mozart's Requiem, and then he read to me out of *Stunden der Andacht* (Hours

of Devotion) the article on 'Selbst-erkenntniss' (Self-knowledge)."

A truer and more salutary domestic life was established both at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor after the royal marriage. A life, simple, but varied and cheerful. After breakfast, at nine o'clock the Queen and the Prince took a walk nearly every morning. Then came the usual amount of business—the examination of despatches, and the consideration of letters and communications on affairs of state,—which was, however, far less heavy at first than it afterwards became, when the Prince had fully entered upon the onerous duties committed to him. On mornings which were more free from business the Queen and Prince frequently gave their attention to drawing or etching, which was a source of great amusement, as they had the plates "bit" in the house. Luncheon followed at two o'clock; and in the afternoon Lord Melbourne, who was usually staying in the house, visited the Queen. Between five and six the Prince either drove with her Majesty in a pony phaeton, or rode while the Queen took a drive with the Duchess of Kent or with the ladies. On most days time was found for the Prince to read aloud to the Queen. Dinner was at eight o'clock, and always with the company staying at the palace. In the evening* the Prince often played at double chess, a game of which he was very fond, and which he played extremely well. The Queen always disliked the bad custom of the gentlemen remaining in the dining-room long after the ladies had left it, and except when there was a dance—which in the earlier days was pretty frequently—the party broke up at about eleven o'clock. * These early hours became more of a rule as the work increased, for the Prince had frequently to get through a good deal of business before breakfast in the morning, letters having to be written or

the drafts of memoranda to be prepared on important subjects in which he took an interest or which had to be submitted to the Queen. In the pictures which we are able to form of these domestic scenes, however, we are constantly attracted by the sense of serenity and repose which pervades some portion of each day—by the intellectual and elevating pursuits which are among the chosen recreations, and by the simplicity which finds pleasure of the deepest and purest kind because it has no need to seek for it in those excitements which are supposed to belong to a court. We see the Queen and the Prince, in all the freshness and charm of youth, making music and art as much a part of their daily life as the morning walk or the afternoon ride; we see them, as it were, hand in hand walking in a fairyland of their own, which is yet as much a part of the ordinary surroundings as are the familiar objects of the woods and grounds at Windsor or the gardens at Buckingham Palace, where the Queen stands watching the Prince as he crosses the little bridge spanning the water from the bank to the island and whistles to the flocks of waterfowl, who know the signal that calls them to be fed.

The serene life, however, was the result of a serene temper and a settled principle of conduct. There were troubles and difficulties, some of which were among the hardest to bear because they were related to matters of frequent, almost daily occurrence. We have already seen that the question of position or of precedence had become vexatious before the marriage, and it remained a source of much uneasiness to the Queen even when, by the exercise of her royal prerogative, the Prince took his place next to her at receptions and on public occasions. It has been already mentioned that in the bill for the naturalization of the Prince a clause had been introduced giving him

precedence for life next after the Queen in parliament or elsewhere, as her Majesty might think proper; but this was opposed on the ground that it had not been set forth in the title of the bill, and the King of Hanover was protesting in violent and scandalous fashion against what he alleged was an affront and an endeavour to supersede the rights of members of the royal family. The Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge, who appear at first to have given a reluctant assent to the clause, renewed their opposition. Wellington was against it; and though the ministry were ready to make some alteration in the clause which would prevent its operating to give the Prince precedence of any future heir-apparent to the throne, there were so many symptoms of an opposition that would be derogatory to the Prince and dangerous to the government that, notwithstanding the strong desire of the Queen that the bill should pass, Stockmar earnestly advised Lord Melbourne to withdraw the clause and to substitute for it an order of council similar to that adopted by the Prince Regent in 1826 to settle the rank of Prince Leopold. This was done, and before Prince Albert arrived in England his position had been so far settled, not to the satisfaction of the royal dukes, but much to the satisfaction of the Duke of Wellington.

When the Queen went to prorogue parliament in August, 1840, the Prince occupied, as he did on subsequent occasions, the seat near the throne, and no interference was made with this decision, though it was understood that the Duke of Sussex and others, including, of course, the abusive and vehement Cumberland, still questioned his right to occupy that which was his natural place either in the House of Lords or in the state carriage which conveyed the Queen thither. 'The sentiment of the country was too decidedly in favour of the husband being

near the wife for any actual opposition to be attempted, and the matter ended in a protest from the Duke of Sussex, who spoke "as a matter of principle." "I told you it was quite right," said the Duke of Wellington to the Queen a few days afterwards. "Let the Queen put the Prince where she likes and settle it herself, that is the best way." This was in accordance with the duke's notions of royal prerogative, and it has been said that the great commander had little toleration for the traditions of court etiquette when they were opposed to the dictates of common-sense. Lord Albemarle, the master of the horse, was at one time very sensitive as to his right in that capacity to sit in the carriage of the sovereign on state occasions, and the Duke of Wellington was then appealed to. "The Queen," he said, "can make Lord Albemarle sit at the top of the coach, under the coach, behind the coach, or wherever else her Majesty pleases."

The duke's way out of the difficulty of the Prince's precedence was satisfactory enough as far as England was concerned, but it did not settle the whole question, as the Queen discovered, to her great annoyance, when she and the Prince afterwards travelled on the Continent. In a memorandum of a considerably later date (May, 1856) her Majesty wrote: "When I first married we had much difficulty on this subject, much bad feeling was shown, several members of the royal family showed bad grace in giving precedence to the Prince, and the late King of Hanover positively resisted doing so. . . . When the Queen was abroad the Prince's position was always a subject of negotiation and vexation: the position accorded to him the Queen had always to acknowledge as a grace and favour bestowed on her by the sovereigns whom she visited. While, in 1856, the Emperor of the French treated the Prince as a royal personage, his uncle declined to come to Paris because he

would not give precedence to the Prince; and on the Rhine, in 1845, the King of Prussia would not give the place to the Queen's husband which common civility required, because of the presence of an archduke, the third son of an uncle of the reigning Emperor of Austria, who would not give the *pas*, and whom the king would not offend. The only legal position in Europe, according to international law, which the husband of the Queen of England enjoyed was that of a younger brother of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and that merely because the English law did not know of him. This is derogatory to the dignity of the crown of England." It was not till the year 1857, a year after this memorandum was written, that Prince Albert received by letters patent the title of Prince Consort, which, however, had been always bestowed on him by the people of England, who had seen in his high character and unassuming nobility, qualities which were of greater dignity than rank or title can bestow.

The position of the Prince demanded from him the exercise of much discretion and forbearance. He had to watch every step that he took lest the adverse criticism to which he was exposed should accuse him of partisanship or of political bias. He had determined to act on a settled principle, the consistency of which should win his way to the appreciation of the country; but even though he could rely for support, not only on the affection, but on the clear practical judgment of the Queen, and though he was assisted at the outset by the sagacious advice and independent experience of Baron Stockmar, the course was a difficult one, requiring above all things patience and watchfulness.

Indifference to politics would now have been inexcusable, even if it had been possible; and the Prince, far from being indifferent, was deeply interested in the political controversies

and changes amidst which he found himself. There were few public men who could better estimate the probable results of those stirring events which soon occupied the attention of the government. He was a vigorous thinker, and had very decided opinions upon all matters of foreign and domestic policy, so that his keen interest in them might easily have led him to some active advocacy, which would have been no less than interference with the great questions that necessarily occupied his attention. "From the first, however, the Prince appreciated the extreme delicacy of his position, and laid down for himself the rule that no act of his should by possibility expose him to the imputation of interference with the machinery of the state, or of encroachment on the functions and privileges of the sovereign. At the same time he formed an equally clear view of his duty to qualify himself thoroughly for supporting the sovereign by his advice, and this involved the most assiduous attention to every subject, whether at home or abroad, in which the welfare of her kingdom was involved."¹

It is not easy to estimate the difficulties with which, from the first, he had to contend in his endeavour to give practical evidence of his disinterested intention to act with the strictest impartiality, and yet to claim the right which, as the consort of the Queen, would enable him to act as her nearest adviser and helper.

When the treaty of his marriage with the Queen was settled by Baron Stockmar as his representative, arrangements were also made for his future household, for appointments in which there were soon a number of applicants. In a letter to her Majesty, as early as the 10th of December, 1839, he had mentioned distinctly what were the qualifications which he

¹ Sir Theodore Martin's *Life of the Prince Consort*.

thought should be kept in view in making those appointments. "I should wish particularly that the selection should be made without regard to politics, for if I am really to keep myself free from all parties my people must not belong exclusively to one side. Above all, these appointments should not be mere 'party rewards,' but they should possess some other recommendation besides that of political connection. Let the men be either of very high rank, or very accomplished, or very clever, or persons who have performed important services for England."

The Prince was much disappointed to find that a private secretary had already been provided for him, Mr. Anson, who had fulfilled the same office for Lord Melbourne, having been nominated. The Prince was justified in regarding this as a high-handed proceeding, calculated to place him at once in a false position towards the Tories, and to lead the public to imagine that he was committed to the Whig administration. Apart from this, the office of private secretary was one of all others for which he might expect to make his own choice, as the person holding it would necessarily be on terms of very close intimacy. "I am leaving my home with all its old associations, all my bosom friends, and going to a country in which everything is new and strange to me—men, language, customs, modes of life, position. Except yourself I have no one to confide in. And it is not even to be conceded to me that the two or three persons who are to have the charge of my private affairs shall be persons who already command my confidence." So he wrote to the Queen; but the appointment was made and he had to submit. Happily he found in Mr. Anson a servant who was a high-minded gentleman, independent of party, and devoted to the interests of the Prince, which were in truth the interests of the crown. The Prince, who knew a good man when he saw

him, soon learned to regard and esteem his secretary, for whom he entertained a sincere friendship, and whose death in 1849 was a great grief to him. The other permanent appointments in the household of the Prince were held by men who were unconnected with politics, with the exception of the groom of the stole and one lord in waiting, who were to be changed with each change of ministry.

But the royal household itself was so constituted, or rather so unorganized, that it required the exercise of all the patience at the command of the Prince to endure it. After a short time he began to make some effort to obtain authority as the head of the family, to reform abuses which had been going on for years, and possessed a vast tenacity of existence; but at first he found himself little more than a cipher amidst a number of vested interests. There was no head of the household to whom anybody could refer, and all that could be plainly discovered was that while confusion, waste, and extravagance went uncontrolled, there was an elaborate show of system—a number of officers, neither of whom was responsible for anything beyond his own immediate jurisdiction, the limits of which he jealously restricted by doing as little as possible until after a series of references.

All the important court appointments were mere ministerial arrangements, the real qualification for each office being only a secondary consideration. But supposing that the qualification had been in every case what it ought to have been, the permanency of any household system, and a uniform and efficient administration, were quite impossible. The great officers of state, who are always noblemen of high rank and political consideration, changed with every government. Since the year 1830 there had been five changes in the office of the lord-chamberlain, and six in that of the lord-steward.

None of the great officers could reside in the palace, and frequently they could not even reside in the same place with the court; so that any uninterrupted and effective personal superintendence of the daily details of their respective departments was made impracticable, and they were forced to delegate part of their authority to servants very inferior in rank in the royal household.

Instead of the whole building of the palace being under the charge of one department, it was placed under three departments; but it was quite undecided which parts of the palace were under the charge of the lord-chamberlain, and which under the lord-steward. In the time of George III. the lord-steward had the custody and charge of the whole palace, excepting the royal apartments, drawing-rooms, &c. &c. In George IV.'s and William IV.'s reign it was held that the whole of the ground-floor, including halls, dining-rooms, &c., were in his charge; but the lord-steward had surrendered to the lord-chamberlain the grand hall and the other rooms on the ground-floor. Whether the kitchen, sculleries, and pantries remained under his charge became a doubtful question. The outside of the palace was considered to belong to the Woods and Forests; so that as the inside cleaning of the windows belonged to the lord-chamberlain's department, the degree of light to be admitted into the palace depended proportionably on the well-timed and good understanding between the lord-chamberlain's office and that of the Woods and Forests.

The housekeepers, pages, housemaids, &c., were under the authority of the lord-chamberlain; all the footmen, livery-porters, and under-butlers, by the strangest anomaly, under that of the master of the horse, at whose office they were clothed and paid; and the rest of the servants, such as the clerk of the kitchen,

the cooks, the porters, &c., were under the jurisdiction of the lord-steward. These ludicrous divisions not only extended to persons, but to things and actions. The lord-steward, for example, found the fuel and laid the fire, and the lord-chamberlain lighted it. The answer to a message sent one day by the Queen to Sir Frederick Watson, then master of the household, to complain that the drawing-room was always cold, was, "You see, properly speaking, it is not our fault; for the lord-steward lays the fire only, and the lord-chamberlain lights it." In the same manner the lord-chamberlain provided all the lamps, and the lord-steward cleaned, trimmed, and lighted them. If a pane of glass or the door of a cupboard in the scullery required mending it could not be done without a requisition being prepared and signed by the chief cook, countersigned by the clerk of the kitchen, taken to be signed by the master of the household, thence taken to the lord-chamberlain's office, where it was authorized, and then laid before the clerk of the works, under the office of Woods and Forests. Consequently many a window and cupboard remained broken for months. The authority of the officer called the master of the household was entirely unrecognized, and even the lord-steward's department was quite undefined. It depended altogether upon the chief officers, whom political changes placed over the master of the household, to what extent they would delegate their power to him, leaving the servants in the palace at a loss to know whether they were to regard his authority.

As neither the lord-chamberlain nor the master of the horse had a regular deputy residing in the palace, more than two-thirds of all the male and female servants were left without a master in the house. They could go on and go off duty as they chose, could remain absent for hours on their days of waiting,

or they might commit any excess or irregularity; there was nobody to observe, to correct, or to reprimand them. The various details of internal arrangement, whereon depends the well-being and comfort of the whole establishment, no one was cognisant of or responsible for. There was no officer responsible for the cleanliness, order, and security of the rooms and offices throughout; and if smoking, drinking, and other irregularities occurred in the dormitories, where footmen, &c., slept ten or twelve in each room, no one could help it.

There was no one who attended to the comfort of the Queen's guests on their arrival at the royal residence. When they arrived there was no one prepared to show them to or from their apartments, there was no gentleman in the palace who even knew where they were lodged. It frequently happened at Windsor that some of the visitors were at a loss to find the drawing-room; and at night, if they happened to forget the entrance from the corridors, they might wander about for an hour helpless and unassisted. There was nobody to apply to in such a case, for it was not in the department of the master of the household, and the only remedy was to send a servant, if one could be found, to the porter's lodge to ascertain the locality of the apartment in question.¹

"In my home life I am very happy and contented; but the difficulty in filling my place with the proper dignity is, that I am only the husband and not the master in the house," wrote Prince Albert to his friend Prince von Löwenstein in May, 1840. Arrangements appear to have been made, or perpetuated, which would operate not only to exclude him from participating in public affairs, but from taking his natural place in his own household.

¹ Stockmar's Memorandum on the Royal Household.

BARON STOCKMAR

Christian Friedrich Stockmar was born at Coburg on the 22nd of August, 1787. After studying medicine in Würzburg, Erlangen, and Jena, he settled down as a physician in his native town, but in 1814-15 he saw some service in the Rhine campaigns as a military surgeon. About this time he became acquainted with Prince Leopold, who afterwards appointed him his physician and confidential adviser and secretary. In 1821 he was promoted to the Saxon nobility, and ten years later he was created a baron of Bavaria. His connection with Leopold ceased in 1831 on the latter's election to the dignity of King of the Belgians, and shortly afterwards he became an intimate friend and adviser of Prince Albert, husband of the late Queen Victoria. The careful education of the Prince Consort, and the admirable tact and knowledge which he brought to the discharge of the duties of his high position, were very largely due to the sagacity and experience of his faithful, though at times stern and magisterial, mentor. He strongly advocated the unification of Germany under Prussia, but he did not live to see this proposal completely carried out. He died in Coburg on July 9th, 1863. His *Denkwürdigkeiten*, or *Memoirs*, were edited by his son, and have appeared in an English translation (1872).

The Baroness Lehzen, who, as the former governess of the Queen, had always been regarded by her Majesty with confidence and affection, and, as we have seen, with a little awe, had virtually become private secretary, and had fallen into the not unusual error of supposing that she would be able to maintain much of her former influence and authority even after the Queen's marriage. Of course the princely husband would be treated with the greatest respect, but it could not be expected that he would interfere in any way with the affairs of the household of which he was only a member. The young couple were to be managed for their own good, of course, but that the Prince should have any independent views of his own could not be tolerated. His was a difficult position, requiring some tact and patience, and it would seem that it might have lasted beyond all endurance but for the quiet diplomatic energy of Stockmar, who came to the rescue, and eventually, but not for a considerable time completely, the Prince was able to claim that authority in the domestic circle which in private families belongs to the husband, and without which there cannot be true comfort or happiness in domestic life. That he should occupy the position of confidential adviser and secretary to the Queen was natural and necessary, and the reorganization of the household followed on the adoption of a plan suggested by Stockmar, which retained the three chief court officials and their departments in their connection with the political system of the country, but delegated to one resident official or master of the household the authority to maintain order and discipline in matters presumed to belong to either department.

While awaiting these changes, the Prince, as we have seen, busied himself with the studies that were necessary to the duties that were to fall to him, and with the simple recreations which

best suited him. The Queen's birthday had been observed quietly at Claremont by a happy holiday. On the 26th of August, 1840, that of the Prince was celebrated at Windsor in pleasant domestic fashion by a family fête, but it was excusable if for a few moments a touch of sadness mingled with his satisfaction. There were those present for whom he had a deep and abiding affection: and though the Duchess of Kent had, two months after the royal marriage, taken up her abode at Frogmore, and when in London at Ingestre House, Belgrave Square, she, like other members of the royal family, could personally join in the general congratulations; but the recipient of them missed the familiar voices which used to greet him on former birthdays at the Rosenau, and he thought of the time of his childhood when he listened for his father's footstep that he might be taken to see the little presents that awaited him in the morning-room at the old palace. His brother Ernest, too, had left England even before the birthday of the Queen, and the parting of the two young men was a trial to both, and even to the Queen herself, who heard them say farewell in the German student fashion by singing the *Abschied*—the parting song—together, with manly deep emotion.

But duties were imperative, and the Prince took advantage of the retirement at Windsor to commence a course of reading on the laws and constitution of England with Mr. Selwyn, and at the same time he read with the Queen Hallam's *Constitutional History of England*, so that she became a participator even in the severer studies. On the 11th of September the Prince was made a member of the privy-council, and as what was called "the Eastern question," to which brief reference will presently be made, had at that time become the leading political topic, there were opportunities for the Prince to obtain some

knowledge of the course of diplomacy, especially as the Queen, acting on the advice of Lord Melbourne, communicated to him all the foreign despatches, so that he could follow the course of events and at the same time estimate the differences of opinion which existed even in the cabinet.

The Prince had already, on the 28th of August, received the freedom of the city of London at the Guildhall, and he attached much importance to the occasion, warmly expressing his thanks for the honour conferred on him in being made a citizen, and acknowledging that the distinction conferred on him marked the loyalty and affection entertained for the Queen.

Expressions of loyalty and devotion to her Majesty were at that time greatly emphasized, for there were expectations of the birth of an heir to the throne before the end of November, and only a few weeks had elapsed since the Queen had been threatened by a great danger, her escape from which had aroused the gratitude and enthusiasm of the country.

The manifestations of popular sentiment and personal loyalty which followed the accession of a young and amiable Queen included some very remarkable instances of craziness. As a matter of fact a good many men who possessed that sympathetic temperament which is easily stirred to a kind of subdued enthusiasm were sensible of a strangely romantic attachment to the youthful sovereign. In the letters of Mr. Charles Dickens, who was at that time reaching the height of his fame as a novelist, there are some humorously exaggerated, but at the same time very subtle and not altogether unreal references to his own experiences in this respect; and he was not singular in that feeling of tender admiration and loyalty. Unfortunately, however, some exceedingly disagreeable manifestations of actual craziness occurred, and more than once the Queen was in danger

from this cause during the year after her coronation. To say nothing of lunatic letters addressed to her Majesty, or of individuals who endeavoured to obtain an interview at Buckingham Palace to urge their suit, one of them actually contriving to gain admission to some of the royal apartments before he was discovered, there were fools or demented creatures who annoyed the Queen when she appeared in public. One such was seen in the chapel royal during the service, not only staring with all his might, but bowing and kissing his hand in a most ludicrous manner till he was removed by the attendants; another fellow, a commercial traveller, followed the Queen on horseback as she was taking an airing in Hyde Park, and failing in the attempt to get near to her Majesty kept crossing and recrossing before her, waving his hand and placing it on his breast. As he would not desist he was given into custody by Colonel Cavendish, who was in attendance as outrider, and for an assault on whom he was fined £5 and ordered to find bail for his good behaviour in a rather heavy amount.

On these and on another occasion, when a man threw into her carriage a letter, which struck her in the face, the Queen never seemed to lose self-possession. This quality was still more severely tried when, on the 10th of June, 1840, a young fellow named Oxford, who had been a potboy at a public-house, fired two pistols at her as she drove with the Prince up Constitution Hill. It was about six o'clock in the evening when the Queen and the Prince had left Buckingham Palace by the garden gate. They were in a low "droschky" drawn by four horses with postilions, preceded by two outriders, and followed by two equerries. The carriage had gone beyond the crowd of people standing at each side of the gate to see it pass when a young man, on the side of the road towards the Green Park,

deliberately presented a pistol and fired it at the Queen. The Prince turned his head on hearing the report, and at once prevented the Queen from rising in the carriage as she seemed inclined to do. The act was witnessed by one of the few spectators, but before anyone could interfere, the scoundrel who perpetrated it drew a second pistol from a breast pocket with his left hand, and, looking to see that no one was behind him, fired a second time. Happily neither shot had taken effect. Several persons rushed upon the fellow, who was conveyed to a police-station, where he seemed indifferent, and preserved an unmoved but trivial demeanour. The Queen was of course greatly alarmed, but, except that she turned pale, betrayed little agitation. She ordered the postilions to drive to Ingestre House, for she was much concerned lest a report of the occurrence should reach the Duchess of Kent before an assurance of safety could be conveyed to her. We may easily imagine what were the feelings of the mother, with whom the Queen and the Prince remained for a short time before continuing their drive to return by Hyde Park. They did not return unescorted. A large concourse of people had assembléd, and a number of ladies and gentlemen, riding in the park, accompanied the royal equipage amidst the warmest demonstrations of loyalty and hearty congratulation. For many days manifestations of equal loyalty and affection continued whenever her Majesty and the Prince appeared. People thronged to give expression to sentiments of regard in the shape of tumultuous cheering, and there were always ladies and gentlemen ready to form an escort, which was almost embarrassing. On the night of the attempt on the Queen's life the national anthem was sung with fervour in every theatre and at almost every public entertainment. Oxford was only seventeen years

of age, and at his subsequent trial it was argued that there had been no evidence of the pistols having been loaded with ball; that he committed the offence only from motives of vanity, in the expectation of achieving a certain kind of notoriety, which was gratified by his being tried for high treason; and that he was not only subject to delusions himself, but came of a family several members of which had been insane. He was acquitted of the alleged offence on this ground, and was sent to Bethlehem Hospital, where he betrayed no further tokens of lunacy than a certain "flightiness" of rather a childish character, accompanied by a peculiar self-conceit. The writer of these lines saw him in the asylum many years afterwards, and he was then engaged in painting and graining the rooms and doors of the hospital. He had become quite artistic in this employment, and appeared to be tolerably happy, but not with any particular symptoms of insanity. In fact, he was said to have remarked soon after his incarceration, when other attempts were made on the Queen's life, that if the government had hanged him there would have been no more shooting at the Queen. It was sought to show that Edward Oxford belonged to a secret society, and there was some evidence that he with a few other juvenile scamps had joined in an association which they called Young England. The O'Connellite journals made political reference to the attempt, which they attributed to an Orange plot to assassinate the Queen and to place Cumberland on the throne.

On the 12th (two days afterwards) Buckingham Palace was the scene of lively demonstrations of attachment to the Queen on the part of the most distinguished of the nobility and gentry as well as of high officials in every department of the public service. Addresses were presented by the sheriffs, cabinet ministers, and public bodies throughout the kingdom,

but the great event of the day was the presentation at a court held at the palace, of addresses from both Houses of Parliament. The speaker, who attended in his state carriage, was followed by above a hundred carriages conveying members of the House of Commons and by a procession of eighty-one carriages of the peers, barons coming first and others following, the higher in rank coming latest, ending with the royal dukes and the lord-chancellor, who came last. The spectacle was imposing, for many of the great nobles wore brilliant uniforms and decorations; and we may be sure that the Duke of Wellington was greeted with delighted acclamations by the crowd; while a large assembly of distinguished visitors, many of whom were also *en grande tenue*, occupied the grand terrace in front of the palace. On approaching the throne where the Queen received the address the procession was reversed, the royal dukes and the lord-chancellor being followed by the peers and the commoners. Prince Albert stood on the left and the great officers of state on the right of the Queen. The address, which expressed heart-felt congratulations, was cordially received by her Majesty, who said, "I am deeply sensible of the mercy of Divine Providence, to whose continued protection I humbly commend myself, and I trust that under all trials I shall find the same consolation and support which I now derive from the loyal and affectionate attachment of my Parliament and my people."

The anxiety of the Prince lest the alarm to the Queen might in her condition have an injurious effect was shared by the public, and doubtless emphasized the enthusiasm with which her Majesty was greeted when she appeared in public. Happily no ill results followed, and the expectations of the birth of an heir to the throne were likely to be realized.

The approach of that event made it necessary that the

government should propose a bill to provide for a regency in case of the death of the Queen and the survival of her offspring. The Queen desired that the precedent of her uncle, Prince Leopold, and the Princess Charlotte should be followed, and that her husband should be named regent; but though the wish was natural and reasonable, the manner in which the proposals for the precedence of the Prince had been received in parliament did not hold out much encouragement, unless the ministry could be prevented from blundering and the leaders of the opposition could be propitiated or at all events brought to some understanding. This was easier than had been anticipated, and by the tact of Stockmar, who undertook to communicate with Peel, Wellington, and the political leaders of the opposition, an acceptable bill was prepared, though the Duke of Sussex strongly urged that the regency should be vested in a council, of which he, as well as the Prince Consort, should be a prominent member. The duke ("as a matter of conscience") entered his protest even when he found himself almost in a minority of one; but there was no contest. Both sides were agreed that Prince Albert should be regent to his own child or children as their natural guardian, and the country endorsed that conclusion, for though the Prince was not in the ordinary and superficial sense "popular," he had already begun to gain the confidence of the people. His singleness of character no less than his evident ability had already attracted the attention of sagacious observers, who foresaw the great advantage to the country of a Prince Consort who sought to promote social improvement and education, and to maintain the simplicity and domestic character of the royal household. The regency bill, introduced by the lord-chancellor, passed on the 13th of July, and the Prince could say with gratification, "not a single voice

was raised in opposition in either house, or in any one of the newspapers."

Lord Melbourne assured the Queen that this was due to the growing appreciation of the Prince's character: "Three months ago they would not have done it for him," he added; and this was true enough. Stockmar, who returned to Coburg directly after the passing of the bill, had found much less difficulty than he anticipated, for even the objection that in the event of the death of the Queen the sovereignty of the country would be practically in the hands of a foreigner, was held to be no serious obstacle, for it was argued that our history would show this to have been the case on several occasions.

Soon after the passing of the bill the court went to Windsor, and we have already noted the domestic life and occupations of the royal household during the autumn, when the Prince was engaged in the study of the constitution of the country and affairs of state, or as colonel of the 11th Hussars making himself proficient in military drill and command by going out with a squadron of the First Life Guards in Windsor Park.

Early in November it was thought desirable that the Queen should return to Buckingham Palace for her accouchement. Prince Albert wrote to Stockmar earnestly requesting that he would return to London, that as a tried friend and counsellor he might be near at hand at this time of anxiety. Stockmar himself was perhaps as deeply anxious as the Prince, for he could not banish from his memory the sad scene which he had witnessed at Claremont twenty-three years before. Even while he was at Coburg he had written concerning the selection of a nurse and the arrangements that were to be made; and now the court having returned to London on the 13th of November, he was there alert and quietly watchful, not, of course, as

physician or giving any personal attendance, but as watchful and trusted adviser.

With his habitual self-control and quiet attention the Prince prepared to take upon himself the duty of guarding the Queen from undue excitement. Stockmar had already urged upon him the necessity of perfect repose after the event, and he was himself sufficiently composed to superintend all the arrangements for securing it. Lady Lyttelton, writing to a friend, mentions a conversation which forcibly illustrates the sound sense and right-mindedness of the Prince. A nobleman, one of the chief officers of the household, asked if a prayer for the Queen's peculiar circumstances should be added (to the church services), the Prince replied: "No, no, you have one already in the litany —'all women labouring of child.'—You pray already five times for the Queen. It is too much." To which his lordship with what looks like pompous imbecility retorted, "Can we pray, sir, too much for her Majesty?" "Not too *heartily*, but too often," replied the Prince.

In the afternoon of the 21st of November (1840) the birth of a daughter was announced—the Princess Royal. The event had been known to be imminent, and the ministers of state and others assembled in the ante-room at Buckingham Palace, were devoutly thankful to learn that the Queen was in safety and as well as possible. The Duchess of Kent was with her daughter, as well as the medical attendants and Mrs. Lilley the nurse. Prince Albert, who was near at hand, was at first somewhat disappointed that the infant was not a son, but the feeling was only momentary; and when the babe was carried into the next room to be seen by the Duke of Sussex, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the lord-chancellor, Lords Melbourne, Palmerston, Russell, and other members of the privy-

council, the congratulations were most cordial. The warm satisfaction of the faithful Stockmar, who was then at the palace, took the form of a short letter to the Prince, in which he enjoined continued repose and the most careful attention for the Queen during the period of recovery.

Prince Albert gave effect to this advice by continuing the duty of watching over and regulating the arrangements for the Queen's comfort; and her Majesty has herself recorded his devoted tenderness and care, which were beyond all praise. He refused to go out to any amusements or entertainments, mostly dining alone with the Duchess of Kent till the Queen was able to join them, and he was always at hand to do anything in his power for her comfort. He was content to sit in her darkened room, to read to her or write for her. "No one but himself ever lifted her from her bed to her sofa, and he always helped to wheel her on her bed or sofa into the next room. For this purpose he would come instantly when sent for from any part of the house." Nor was his assiduous care ever wanting on successive occasions. "As years went on and he became overwhelmed with work (for his attentions were the same in all the Queen's subsequent confinements), this was often done at much inconvenience to himself; but he ever came with a sweet smile on his face. In short, his care of her was like that of a mother, nor could there be a kinder, wiser, or more judicious nurse."

The recovery of the Queen was rapid and uninterrupted, but the difficulties which would have been experienced in securing any true order and quietude or even ordinary security in that unorganized household may be illustrated by an occurrence which provoked much laughter and not a little consternation at the time. References to "the boy Jones" were constant, in the

streets, in social conversation, and especially in the coarser comic prints; and "the boy Jones" was one William Jones, a young scamp who had contrived to enter Buckingham Palace and had actually hidden under a sofa in the room next to the Queen's. He was discovered by Mrs. Lilley the nurse, and was of course immediately removed, but appeared to be unabashed, and declared that he had been in the palace for some time and could gain access whenever he pleased. It was supposed that he climbed the garden wall at some distance up Constitution Hill and secreted himself till he could enter by a window; but he did not make known the manner of his intrusion, and on his examination it could not be shown that he had any motive except that of impudent curiosity and delight in his achievement. The privy-council did not think there was much cause for alarm, and he was therefore sentenced to only three months' imprisonment as a rogue and vagabond; but the fact that a strange "vulgar boy" could obtain admission to the royal apartments unobserved was suggestive of the divided responsibility and the utter want of regularity among the servants of the palace.

The Queen's strength was so soon restored that the court went down to Windsor for the Christmas holidays, which were kept in the pleasant German fashion which recalled to the Prince the old familiar scene at Coburg. Christmas-trees were set up in the rooms of the Queen and the Prince. Mutual Christmas gifts lay as pleasant surprises on the tables beneath the green and glittering branches. Other trees with presents for the household adorned another room, and all went happily.¹ There were good reasons for rejoicing. Even the political atmosphere was more serene, and when the time came for the return to

¹ From this time the Christmas-tree, which in every German household marks the celebration of the great festival, began to be introduced in England, and added a new charm to the domestic pleasures of Christmaseide.

Buckingham Palace the Queen dwelt with deep satisfaction on the simple pleasures and good-will of this holiday time at Windsor. The entry in her journal on the 22d of January, 1841, says: "I told Albert that formerly I was too happy to go to London, and wretched to leave it; and how, since the blessed hour of my marriage, and still more since the summer, I dislike and am unhappy to leave the country, and could be content and happy never to go to town. This pleased him. The solid pleasures of a peaceful, quiet, yet merry life in the country, with my inestimable husband and friend, my all in all, are far more durable than the amusements of London; though we don't dislike or despise these sometimes." This was doubtless written in the after-glow of the pleasant, cheerful Christmas-tide at Windsor, where all the circumstances—the first sweet, tender feelings of maternity, the delightful sense of true domestic life, the revival of strength and health, and the blossom of the marriage sentiment—contributed to the joyful observances of the season. As we have already seen, the return of the court to London was followed by a round of gaieties which did not betoken any deep dislike or contempt for London amusements; but there were other reasons for many of these court festivities besides mere personal gratification.

The baptism of the infant princess royal was to take place at Buckingham Palace on the 10th of February, the anniversary of the Queen's marriage; and on the previous day an accident occurred to Prince Albert which might have delayed it. He was exceedingly fond of skating, in which he was an adept, and had gone upon the ice of the sheet of water in Buckingham Palace garden, which was firmly frozen over, the cold being intense. The Queen was standing on the bank with one of her ladies watching the Prince, who made his way towards her,

when at a few yards from the bank he came upon a place where the ice had been recently broken and the water had frozen over again. Directly the Prince reached the spot he went plump into the water, and had to swim for two or three minutes in order to get out. The Queen was in a terrible fright, but did not lose her usual presence of mind, and while her companion could do nothing but scream for help—which was perhaps not an altogether useless thing to do—her Majesty promptly aided the Prince to get out of the water. The shock from the extreme cold was painful, and he took a rather severe cold; but he had escaped a really serious danger.

The sponsors for the princess royal, who was named Victoria Adelaide Mary Louisa, were the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the King of the Belgians, the Queen-dowager, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duchess of Kent, and the Duke of Sussex. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg was unable to be present, and by special arrangement made by the Queen was represented by the Duke of Wellington, who had but just before supported the government policy on the eastern question in the House of Lords, and therefore was not only friendly but useful to Lord Melbourne's ministry.

"The christening went off very well," wrote Prince Albert to the Dowager-duchess of Gotha. "Your little great-grandchild behaved with great propriety, and like a Christian. She was awake, but did not cry at all, and seemed to crow with immense satisfaction at the lights and brilliant uniforms, for she is very intelligent and observing. The ceremony took place at half-past six P.M., and after it there was a dinner, and then we had some instrumental music. The health of the little one was drunk with great enthusiasm."

The remarkable behaviour of the royal infant was com-

BAPTISM OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL AT BUCKINGHAM
PALACE, 10th February, 1841

Buckingham Palace is specially associated with the memory of George III and Victoria, the two sovereigns who are distinguished in the history of Britain for the length of their reigns. All the numerous children of George III, except the son who succeeded him as George IV, were born here, and most of the children of Victoria, including the two eldest, the Princess Royal and Albert Edward (now Edward VII), were also born in this palace. The present building, however, was not in existence in the time of George III. It was begun under George IV in 1825, but it was not till the accession of Victoria that it became a royal residence. The picture represents one of the many interesting and brilliant ceremonies associated with the palace during the reign of the late queen. The artist, Charles Robert Leslie (1794-1859), was a distinguished painter of American parentage who was born and died in London. He was very successful in the painting of humorous scenes from Shakespeare, Cervantes, Swift, Sterne, Addison, and others, and has been frequently compared with Hogarth.

BAPTISM OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 10th February, 1841

FROM THE PAINTING BY C. R. LESLIE, R.A., IN WINDSOR CASTLE



mented on by Lord Melbourne, who on the following day said to the Queen, "How she looked about her, quite conscious that the stir was all about herself. This is the time the character is formed."

The court had settled down to the amusements of the season, parliament had been sitting for some weeks, and there were symptoms of a political crisis. "The boy Jones," released from his short imprisonment, was again, and, as it was understood, for a third time, lying in wait in Buckingham Palace, but was promptly seized by a police-constable and taken before a magistrate, who wisely induced the parents of the ingenious youth to let him go to sea on board one of her Majesty's ships, where he was probably a very active member of the crew, and may have made a reputation by imaginative narratives of the domestic life of the royal family.

Early in 1841 Stockmar had returned to Coburg, and though he continued to write to Prince Albert letters of considerable length and full of serious advice, which anybody but a thoroughly sensible and truly amiable prince might have regarded as being a trifle magisterial, he had seen that the husband of the Queen had already acquired a definite regard in the estimation of the English people, and that he was trusted and respected by representatives of both political parties in the state.

These results of the consistent character of the Prince were the more important because the Queen would soon be obliged to rely more on his advice and assistance. The Whig administration had for some time shown signs of weakness which betokened approaching dissolution, and Lord Melbourne, who was quite aware that his ministry was tottering to its fall, seemed little to regret the loss of place and power, except that he would be no longer the daily visitor and counsellor of the Queen, who

from the first days of her reign had been accustomed to apply to him for instruction.

It must be remembered that a great deal had happened during the comparatively short time since Victoria's accession, and that the acts of the legislature had marked a rapid expansion of national life and sentiment. Important measures for the amelioration of the condition of the people and the abolition of abuses passed without violent opposition. Among these a series of bills, brought in by Lord John Russell in the early part of the session of 1837, introduced further alterations in the criminal code, by which the number of crimes punishable by death was reduced to seven, and a longer interval was to elapse between the sentence and the execution of a criminal. Previously the sheriff had been obliged to carry out the capital sentence within three days, and as no prisoner tried for felony was permitted to be defended by counsel it is easy to see that the weight of evidence might often be made to turn terribly against the accused. A bill was framed to put an end to this glaring injustice and to provide that the prisoner should be properly defended. Capital punishment was restricted to high treason and with some exceptions to crimes of violence or tending to endanger life. It was not till 1861 that the Criminal Laws Consolidation Act confined the penalty of death to the crimes of high treason and wilful murder.

The operation of the "new poor-laws," that is, of the act for the relief of the poor, which was one of the earlier measures introduced by the Whigs in the reformed parliament, was still the cause of considerable murmuring, and though the period during which it was to be tried had shown that it was on the whole a beneficial measure, necessary for removing the almost unmitigated evils of the old perverted system of what is now

known as "out-door relief," distributed with little discretion or inquiry, there were doubtless many hardships inflicted by the narrow restrictions, the mechanical and unfeeling routine, and the repelling policy of the new "boards." We need not dwell on this except to refer to the popular dislike and detestation of a system where instances of extreme hardship were not difficult to discover during its first hard-and-fast working, and from which such instances will perhaps never be absent. In songs, parodies, and caricatures, no less than in serious essays, bitterly satirical letters, and fervid denunciations, the new poor-laws were assailed by people who did not stay to estimate the evils which these laws were designed to remedy. A reference to *Oliver Twist*, the story which Mr. Charles Dickens published at that time, will show what was the prevailing feeling among many persons who, though they must have known that the foundation of the measure was in itself wise, valuable, and likely to be permanent, yet shrank with horror from the cruelties which were possible for brutal and unscrupulous officials to inflict under its provisions. In 1841, however, those provisions had undergone several revisions and modifications as the result of inquiries into some atrocious doings to which *Oliver Twist* no doubt pointed, and further amendments were claiming public attention.

It will easily be seen that the cruelties in workhouses, and the neglect, starvation, and ill-treatment of the poor who entered them from want of employment or through the misery and starvation that followed depression of trade, had a very definite relation to the subjects of trades-unions and the demands for political and social changes suggested by popular leaders, many of whom were ignorant, some of whom were dishonest, while others were carried away by that kind of sympathy for distress

and wretchedness which finds expression in violent declamation and the incitement of large audiences to take the laws into their own hands and break them.

So little do we hear of "Chartism" now that very few people would be able off-hand to say what were the famous "six points of the charter" for which constant agitation was maintained in London and the chief manufacturing towns. Those points were manhood suffrage, equal electoral districts, vote by ballot, annual parliaments, the payment of members, and the abolition of the property qualification for admission to a seat in the legislature. These do not now seem very formidable, for those that are worth anything have been virtually adopted; but it must be remembered that in the early years of the Queen's reign they appeared to be a long way off, and it was not unnatural that numbers of men should be led to believe that a more direct influence in the government of the country by the election to parliament of actual representatives of the needs and wishes of the people would be a remedy for the depression in commerce and manufactures, by promoting such legislation as would provide work and wages, and relieve the distress of the vast number of starving and destitute operatives and labourers, who were ready to listen to the inflammatory speeches of men who were eloquent and earnest, and whose denunciations were easily interpreted into exhortations to resort to physical force and to assemble in armed bodies.

"Chartism" (so called) was not altogether to be blamed for the violence exhibited in its name. Many of those who joined its ranks had been concerned in the deplorable offences which were committed to enforce the demands of the trades-unions. Factory operatives who had been engaged in threatening demonstrations against employers, in destroying mills and

machinery and firing buildings, and in half-murdering fellow-workmen who refused to be bound by the rules and orders of the societies, were not likely to be among the advocates of moral as opposed to physical force. Yet there were numbers of Chartists who were entirely opposed to armed demonstrations or to threats which were likely to increase distress by diminishing the security of industrial and commercial enterprise. For a time, however, the turbulent leaders had it their own way, and the sufferings of their hungry followers greatly augmented the mischief which at one time seemed to be spreading into insurrection. In 1839 a Chartist petition, said to have been signed by 1,200,000 persons and accepted at five hundred public meetings, had been presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Attwood, the member for Birmingham, and he proposed the appointment of a committee to consider the grievances set forth by the petitioners. His proposal was refused by a large majority in a rather thin house. This was on the 12th of July, and about a week previously there had been some Chartist rioting in Birmingham. On the 15th, Birmingham was in the hands of an insurgent mob, who sacked the shops, set houses on fire in various parts of the town, and destroyed property to the value of about £50,000. In this case it was necessary to call out a military force to suppress the riot, as in the previous disturbance the police, some of whom had been sent from London, were very badly injured. It was thought by some persons in authority that the very violence of the excesses committed by the Birmingham rioters, with the suppression of the insurgents and the arrest of the ringleaders, would put an end to Chartism; but there was not nearly an end even to the demonstrations of physical force. In the manufacturing districts the disturbances continued and increased. The advocates of violence professed

that they were misunderstood when the moral-force Chartist remonstrated with them; but there could be little mistake as to the probable effect of their addresses upon those who listened to them. The eloquent and stirring harangues of Mr. J. R. Stephens, a minister of one of the Wesleyan Methodist bodies, for instance, if they were not intended to incite to violence, could scarcely be otherwise interpreted; and Mr. Stephens, in the midst of his genuine earnestness and excitement, might have become as insane as another leader, Mr. Feargus O'Connor, a man of a very different type, if he had not been arrested and kept out of harm's way.

It was significant that the name "National Convention" was adopted by the Chartists. A giant petition, which had to be conveyed like an enormous roll of carpet into the House of Commons, was called the "National Petition;" and there were men among the leaders, and especially the "moral-force" leaders of Chartism, who, by their abilities and consistency no less than by their power in impressing large audiences, were likely to sustain the movement. Among these were Henry Vincent, who delivered stirring lectures and addresses on political subjects. Amidst the heat and fury of the time it was probably difficult even for the more self-controlled speakers to avoid seditious utterances, and Vincent, who was on a lecturing tour at Newport, in Monmouthshire, was arrested and imprisoned. There were three men in Newport who were leaders in the Chartist "cause"—Frost, Williams, and Jones. John Frost was a well-to-do tradesman, and had been a magistrate in the borough, but had been removed from office because of his intemperate language in addressing a public meeting. From that time his political inclinations led him to support the more violent party of the Chartists, and the imprisonment of

Vincent gave him an opportunity to assert the principle of physical force. With above 5000 men he marched into Newport with the avowed object of rescuing the famous Chartist lecturer. He and his followers, with the two subordinate leaders, Williams and Jones, went at once to the hotel where the magistrates were sitting; but intelligence of his movements had reached the local authorities, and thirty soldiers and several special constables were in the building. The insurgents, who consisted mostly of "hill-men" and men from Pontypool, were not among those who were in great distress, and they appeared to be of a steady serious class. They had sacked the villages through which they went, and compelled the able-bodied men to join them till they were 20,000 strong. Though not more than a third of the number went into Newport the rest remained in the surrounding hills. Many were armed with guns and pistols, the others carried swords, picks, and crowbars. On arriving at the hotel they began, by the direction of Frost, to demolish the building, as they could not gain an entrance. When the window of the room was opened by the officer in command they fired upon the small party of soldiers who were there. The mayor, endeavouring to remonstrate with the rioters before a shot was discharged from within, was severely wounded. The few soldiers commencing a steady fire their assailants almost immediately took to flight, several having been wounded and some killed. Frost was apprehended next day and Williams and Jones soon afterwards, but though on their trial they were convicted of high treason, the sentiment attending the expected marriage of the young Queen may be believed to have influenced the jury to give a recommendation to mercy. The evidence showed that the attack on Newport was part of a plan devised by Frost for communicating with Birmingham for the purpose of another rising there and an

extension of the insurrection through the towns of the north. The prisoners were sentenced to death, but the judges commuted the sentence to transportation for life on the ground that the list of witnesses had not been delivered to the prisoners according to the statute. The Mayor of Newport was knighted for his consistent courage; and the suppression of the riot was, of course, a blow to Chartism, but it was not a fatal blow. There continued to be risings and seditious meetings in various parts of the country, but the government, unwilling to resort to severer measures than were necessary, contrived to disperse or to suppress them with the aid of the constabulary. Chartism itself was not put down. The moral-force advocates and their followers were as strong as ever. A great many of the other leaders were imprisoned for various terms, including Vincent and Stephens, and though the terms were not prolonged the treatment to which the prisoners were subjected was rigorous, especially in the case of Vincent, who, however, with his colleagues Lovett and Collins, had very favourably impressed everybody by the skill and judgment with which they conducted their own defence.

Carlyle wrote, "We are aware that according to the newspapers Chartism is extinct, that a reform ministry has put down 'the Chimera of Chartism' in the most felicitous effectual manner . . . it is indeed the chimera of Chartism, not the reality that has been put down. The matter of Chartism is weighty, deep-rooted, far-extending, did not begin yesterday, will by no means cease this day or to-morrow. . . . The essence continuing, new and ever new embodiments, chimeras madder or less mad have to continue. The melancholy fact remains, that this thing, known at present by the name of Chartism, does exist, has existed, and is like to exist till quite other methods have been tried with it." The truth was that amidst the labouring popu-

lation hunger, want, and the discontent that belongs to dire poverty took the aspect of political agitation, and what was needed was rather economical than strictly political reforms. The wide-spread and peacefully conducted agitation of the league for the repeal of the corn-laws and the removal of taxes from food, soon began to tell upon the wilder and less effectual efforts of Chartism. The violent Chartists found this out and tried to compel the Corn-law Leaguers to make common cause with them, broke into their meetings or occupied the places where they were to assemble. The violent protectionists opposed to the repeal of the corn-laws took advantage of this to provide bogus leaders or speakers to get up sham Chartist meetings, that they might prejudice or prevent meetings that were to be addressed by anti-corn-law agitators. Ebenezer Elliott, the famous "Corn-law Rhymer," who had done so much for true freedom and the well-being of his fellows by waging perpetual war against the war taxes and the imposts on food that starved and killed the poor, wrote: "Plundered fellow-towners of Sheffield! Potato-fed men having no surplus are necessarily slaves, and the bread-tax-ry mean to bring you down to potato wages. You will soon then, I venture to hope, see the folly of allowing yourselves to be led the wrong way by paid agents of the scoundrel bread-tax-ry, who, favoured by your deplorable ignorance, have contrived to place themselves at the head of the Chartists, not merely to defeat the other wise and holy movement, but by so doing to sustain the all-beggaring food monopoly, and make the Liberal cause itself hateful and ridiculous."

The repeal of the corn-laws and the removal of taxes on food may be said to have been potent in snuffing out Chartism, but it was not till after a long struggle that the work of the Anti-Corn-law League was effected by the conversion of Sir Robert

Peel to their principles; and many other advances had been made which, by ameliorating the condition of the working population, extending the means of communication between distant centres, and promoting the knowledge of those arts and sciences which are applied to manufactures and tend to increase and to stimulate trade, effected an enormous improvement in the country. Frost, Williams, and Jones did not remain in penal servitude for life. An amnesty was granted to them in May, 1856, and on their return to England they found that vast changes had taken place. There was no longer any power in Chartist. It was only an historical term. Even the agricultural labourer had profited by the removal of the taxes on corn; wages had risen almost everywhere; and not only food, but clothing and other necessaries were so much cheaper that the purchasing power of the wages of the lowest labourer had greatly increased.

The "twopenny postman" and the "franked" letter are terms which seem to belong to some remote period of history, and yet it was only a month before the Queen's marriage that the old, costly, and obstructive post-office system was abandoned and the institution of the "penny post" was practically commenced.

The scheme, which was successfully introduced by Mr. Rowland Hill, was the outcome of careful calculations which proved that letters could be profitably carried to any part of the United Kingdom at the uniform rate of a penny for each letter weighing no more than half an ounce. At intervals for about a hundred and fifty years propositions for a reduction of the cost of conveyance of letters by the post-office had been mooted, and even a penny postage had been mentioned more than once, but the authorities strenuously opposed reductions on the ground

that the revenues of the post-office were already so low as to be unremunerative. This was probably true, as even people who were able to read and write were reluctant to pay the heavy charges for postage to distant places only reached by the coaches once or twice a week, or even less frequently, and the item of postage for letters was so considerable that ordinary trade letters were comparatively few. For twenty years, from 1815 to 1835, though the population had increased thirty per cent, and the advance of education had greatly augmented the number of persons able to write, the number of letters passing through the post-office had remained about the same. There were, of course, several small organizations for smuggling letters by means of carriers and private conveyances, and various contrivances were used by people who were anxious to send a short message or sign to their friends to say that they were still alive and in the same place. The single sheet to which an ordinarily paid letter was restricted, was frequently filled with messages to several persons in the same district, and the receiver cut it up and distributed it, or the one letter was read aloud to select audiences in the town or village. Sometimes the words in a newspaper would be marked or dotted to form a communication, or a blank sheet of paper merely directed on the outside and despatched unpaid would be a sign of continued well-being to the distant receiver, who could then return to the postman the unopened letter on the ground of poverty and inability to pay for its delivery.

Within a very limited area around Charing Cross, town letters were delivered for twopence, but the rates of postage to the provinces were so large that the computed average for the United Kingdom amounted to above sixpence for each letter, an amount which accounted for the survival of the old privilege by

which peers, cabinet councillors, and members of parliament could "frank" letters, or cause them to be carried free, by writing their names on the outside or address portion of the sheet. That such a practice should have survived till 1840 is very remarkable, and that many people should have continued the humiliating practice of waiting on noblemen and members of parliament to beg for "franks" was in itself a strong argument for postal reform.

Apart from the incalculable advantages to trade and commerce afforded by the penny postage system, it is impossible to overestimate its effects in quickening the social sentiments and giving new strength to family ties and domestic affections. Among friends long parted, relatives divided by insuperable distance, boys and girls away in service, fathers of families at work in the provinces or travelling on business, to say nothing of husbands and wives, or lovers, waiting for the letters that had become rarities because they were charged for as luxuries—a new and delightful experience commenced. Cheap postage at once stimulated the art and the practice of correspondence and became a motive power in the education of the country. There was something significant in the fact that this should have taken place at a time when the young Queen and the Prince to whom she was betrothed were keenly sensible of the sadness of separation, and it may be believed that they both hailed with satisfaction the adoption by the legislature of the system which had been recommended in the budget of 1839 and was put in force in January, 1840. Among the collections of persons curious in such matters may still be seen envelopes engraved with a highly artistic design by Mr. Mulready, R.A., which were the first issued by the post-office and used under the new system; but these were soon discontinued, and in May the plan

of affixing stamps for prepayment of the postal charges was adopted, on the proposal of Mr. Rowland Hill, to whom it had been suggested by Mr. Charles Knight, the well-known author and publisher.

The adoption of penny postage and the rapid increase of letters demanded a complete reorganization of the system of conveyance and delivery. The great improvement of the roads of the kingdom and the more rapid journeys made by well built and well-horsed mail-coaches provided for the new demand. The long line of fine coaches drawn up every evening before the chief post-office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and destined to carry the mails to distant post-towns, was one of the sights of London; but even then there were unmistakable signs of still more momentous achievements. In 1837 electric telegraphy was already suggested by the experiments and patents of Messrs. Wheatstone and Cook, but the more important enterprise was that by which, not letters only, but passengers could be carried at very low fares and in an incrediby short time to every part of the kingdom.

In 1838 the London and Birmingham and the Liverpool and Preston Railways had been completed—that between Liverpool and Birmingham had been at work since 1837, and active preparations were being made for laying down lines for "the iron horse" between all the great centres of industry. Steamships were already voyaging on river and sea; and experiments had been concluded for providing "ships of an enormous size, furnished with steam-power equal to the force of 400 horses and upwards to make the voyage across the Atlantic." It may be mentioned that steam-vessels were first used in war at the bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre in November, 1840, when some small "steamers" were present as adjuncts to the allied fleet.

The mention of St. Jean d'Acre leads to a reference to the Eastern question, which for some time gave the Queen much uneasiness, because of the angry and somewhat threatening attitude assumed by the ministry of Louis Philippe. The French government had always assumed that it should have a preponderating influence in the affairs of Egypt, and when the pasha, Mehemet Ali, revolted from the authority of the Sultan of Turkey, and after taking possession of nearly the whole of Syria was joined by the Turkish admiral, who took over with him the sultan's fleet, the French government of the time could not agree with the conclusions of the English, Austrian, Prussian, and Russian governments, and, jealous especially of English interests at Constantinople and Cairo, did not join the alliance. The sultan, Mahmoud II., died, and his successor, Abdul Medjid, assisted by the allied powers, pronounced the deposition of Mehemet Ali, who, after the bombardment of Beyrouth, was compelled to give up most of the territory which he had seized and to return to his allegiance as Pasha of Egypt. The ministry of France, under M. Thiers, protested that the honour of France had been insulted by action being taken without her concurrence, and many threatening declarations of a warlike character were made. France, however, was not in a position to go to war with the allied powers, and the Thiers ministry had to give way to that of M. Guizot, who was friendly to an amicable understanding with England, and who, in the spring of 1840, had been here as an ambassador to endeavour to arrive at a friendly arrangement. It was certain that Louis Philippe, and the new and more reasonable ministry, neither wanted war nor a disagreement with this country, therefore they accepted the situation after some amenities had passed, and the unpleasant feeling was soon entirely dissipated.

It may be worth noticing as another illustration of the complaints of want of orderly arrangements in the royal household, that the eminent Frenchman, who was on a visit at Windsor, sat up late one night in conversation with two or three persons for about half an hour after most of the company had retired to rest, and that after wandering about in a vain effort to find his bed-room he thought he had discovered it, and slowly opening the door observed to his dismay that the room was occupied by a lady, who, assisted by her maid, was about to prepare for disrobing. Closing the door hastily he again traversed the corridors till a servant was found who directed him to his own apartment. In the morning the Queen laughingly asked him whether he was aware that he had opened the door and nearly entered the ante-room of her apartment, and the eminent statesman made the best answer possible by humorously requesting that should he ever publish his memoirs, as other ministers had done, he might be permitted to mention the incident.

From the opening of the session in 1841 it had become evident to thoughtful people that the battle in parliament would eventually have to be fought on the lines of the repeal of the duties on corn. The Anti-Corn-law League was daily growing in extent and power; and though Lord Melbourne appeared to be indifferent to the principle of free-trade, and had not long before professed that the repeal of the duties on corn, or even a great reduction of them, would be out of the question, Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell were emphatically on the side of the anti-corn-law members of the house, among whom were men of great ability and influence. But the Melbourne ministry was only prepared to advocate a fixed reduced duty, and was too weak to fight any battle or to support any prin-

ciple. Though it had passed humane and beneficial measures, the country was tired of its now aimless, nerveless existence. There was a deficit of two millions in the budget, and it was intended to endeavour to meet the deficiency by altering the duties on timber and reducing those on foreign sugar. The budget had been based on proposals for increased freedom of trade, and Lord John Russell had given notice that he should on the 31st of May move for a committee of the whole house to consider the acts of parliament relating to the trade in corn. He now announced that it was the intention of the government to impose only a fixed import duty of 8s. a quarter on wheat, 5s. on rye, 4s. 6d. on barley, and 3s. 4d. on oats. The Conservatives at once prepared to resist proposals which were obviously on the side of free-trade; and the more advanced of the anti-corn-law party was stimulated to greater exertion for procuring, not reduction of the duty, but its total abolition. The debate on the reduction of the sugar duties, in which Peel made a brilliant attack on the ministry, ended in the defeat of the government proposals; but when it was supposed that the ministry would resign, the chancellor of the exchequer (Mr. Baring) calmly gave notice that on the following Monday he would move "the usual sugar duties." Lord John Russell then moved an adjournment, and it was intimated that the proposed alterations in the duties on corn would be taken on the 4th of June. It was believed that after the corn-law debate the ministry would dissolve parliament, and appeal to the country with a free-trade policy; but they were not prepared for so bold a course, though the majority of the cabinet was in favour of a dissolution. "Under these circumstances," said Lord Melbourne to the Queen, "of course I felt that I could but go with them; so we shall go on, bring on the sugar duties, and then, if things are in

a pretty good state, dissolve." Here they had reckoned without Peel, who, when the sugar question was brought forward, seconded the motion that the duties should continue for another year, and gave notice that he should on the 31st of May move a vote of want of confidence in the ministry. This was done, and the motion was carried by a majority of one. On the 23d of June her Majesty prorogued parliament, which was dissolved on the 29th by royal proclamation, and preparations were made for a general election.

The Queen and Prince Albert were so well acquainted with the political situation and with the condition of the country that they shared the anxieties of those who had the immediate responsibility of legislating for the relief of prevailing want and distress in various parts of the country, and for devising a financial scheme which would restore confidence and support national credit. The Prince had been for some time gaining information on public affairs, not only by studying the politics of the day, but by unreserved communications with ministers; and though he shared the regret of the Queen at parting with those for whom they both felt a very sincere friendship, they saw that a change of government was necessary and inevitable. As a matter immediately affecting the Queen it was most important that on a change of ministry there should be no repetition of misunderstanding on the subject of the retirement of her Majesty's personal attendants, and that her reluctance to dismiss those who had been her companions should not lead to further imputations of political partisanship. The Prince, therefore, after consulting Lord Melbourne, instructed his secretary Mr. Anson to make some proposition to Sir Robert Peel by which the Queen might arrange that those ladies whose removal should be considered essential on political grounds

might voluntarily retire, an arrangement by which the Duchess of Bedford, the Duchess of Sutherland, and Lady Normanby alone resigned their appointments as ladies of the bed-chamber. These communications between the Prince and Sir Robert Peel had some effect in dissipating the awkwardness which the rather shy and reserved minister feared might ensue on their meeting for the first time in an official capacity. Sir Robert remembered that he had felt it necessary when in opposition to join in voting for the smaller allowance proposed to be granted to the husband of the Queen, and he thought that the Prince would remember it also; but he need have been under no apprehension of that kind. It might have passed entirely from the memory of both so far as it had any effect either on the temper or the goodwill of Prince Albert. Sir Robert Peel had not had an opportunity of estimating his personal character; but when the opportunity came the usually reticent, but always sensitive, minister soon regarded him with genuine admiration and esteem, sentiments which became mutual before the two men had long known and understood each other.

We have already noted some of the amusements and festivities which attracted public attention about this time, and when Rachel, the famous French actress, was at the Italian Opera, and Adelaide Kemble at Covent Garden, the Queen was frequently present with the Prince at the theatre; but during the excitement of the political crisis they made some pleasant short excursions to various places not very far from London.

After an agreeable and interesting visit to the Archbishop of York at Nuneham, where they stayed three days, they drove to Oxford, "Commemoration" having been postponed for the arrival of the Prince, who was very cordially received. This and other visits, in fact most of their engagements at that busy

and rather unsettled season, were mentioned and briefly described in letters written by Prince Albert to the Duchess of Kent, who was on a visit to Germany, and for the first time since she left it in 1819 was staying at her former home at Amorbach, in Bavaria, on the estate belonging to her son, the Queen's half-brother, Prince Charles Leiningen. "It is like a dream that I am writing to you from this place," she wrote to the Queen. "My heart is so full. I am so occupied with you and Albert and the precious little creature. I was quite upset by the kind reception the poor people here gave me. Everywhere I have found proofs of affection and gratitude. . . . I occupy the rooms where your dear father lived, but Charles had one room arranged for me, which is most elegant and pretty. He has made many alterations in the house. Your father began them just when we left in March, 1819." In a reply containing very tender and grateful thanks for the loving expressions in the "long dear letter" from Amorbach, the Prince says: "To-morrow we visit the Duke of Devonshire at Chiswick, on Monday we go to see the *Trafalgar* launched at Woolwich. . . . Wednesday, Uncle Leopold and Aunt Louise arrive. . . . Friday I lay the foundation-stone of the London Porters' Association. To-day we had a chapter of the Bath: Sir Charles Napier was decorated. Yesterday was the last drawing-room of the season. All the world is rushing out of town to agitate the country for and against."

The launch of the *Trafalgar*, here referred to, took place on the 21st of June, 1841, and was a very fine spectacle. "The most imposing sight which I can remember," he wrote to his father. "There were about 500,000 people present, and the Thames was covered for miles with ships, steamers, barges, and boats. The wine used had been taken from the *Victory* after

the battle of Trafalgar. By the Queen's request the vessel was christened by Lady Bridport, a niece of Lord Nelson's." One great feature of the occasion was, that out of five hundred people on board the great vessel when it was launched at least a hundred had taken some part in the action which the name of the ship was intended to commemorate.

The visits of the King and Queen of the Belgians were always most welcome to Victoria and Prince Albert, and it was a grief to them that though Queen Louise had been obliged to prolong her stay at Windsor Castle because of the illness of her son (the present King of the Belgians), they were compelled to start on their tour to Woburn and other places instead of remaining with her. To lose four days of her stay, of which every hour was precious, Victoria said was dreadful: for "the Queen of the Belgians had been an inmate of the palace for nearly six weeks, and during this stay, which had been such a happiness for me, we had become most intimate. Louise is perfect, so full of every kind and high feeling—a noble soul! Albert is the only equal to her in unselfishness. She never thinks of herself." In the light of these loving words it is easy to understand how the Queen had been, and would again be, troubled when the policy of her dear friend's father, Louis Philippe, threatened to interfere with those cordial relations which he himself professed to regard with so much satisfaction.

The round of pleasant visits to the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey, and thence to Earl Cowper at Panshanger, and to Lord Melbourne at Brocket Hall, returning to town by way of Hatfield, the historical home of the Cecils, was enjoyed thoroughly. The Prince wrote to the Duchess of Kent that Woburn Abbey was "really very beautiful, and as complete and comfortable as possible." Beside the family there were a good

HATFIELD HOUSE

Hatfield House, in Hertfordshire, a little to the east of St. Albans, is the residence of the Marquis of Salisbury, the last prime minister of the late Queen Victoria. The present building was erected by Sir Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury, early in the seventeenth century, but there are still some remains of the earlier palace which was used by Henry VIII and the subsequent Tudor sovereigns. This palace was for several centuries a residence of the Bishops of Ely, but the manor passed in 1538 to Henry VIII in exchange for other lands. Here Elizabeth, the most brilliant of English queens, lived for several years prior to her accession to the throne. James I granted the estate to his great minister Cecil in exchange for Theobalds, near Cheshunt, some distance to the south-east, and ever since it has belonged to the Cecils. The present mansion is a brick structure with stone facings and dressings, and is a fine example of Tudor domestic architecture. It contains a very valuable collection of historical documents and many fine pictures. Queen Victoria visited Hatfield House in 1846.

HATFIELD HOUSE

THE RESIDENCE OF THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY VALENTINE & SONS, DUNDEE



many people there, Lord and Lady Grey, Lord and Lady Palmerston, the latter the accomplished and delightful sister of Lord Melbourne, Lord and Lady Ashley, Lord and Lady Leveson Gower, Lord Duncannon, Lord and Lady Verulam, Lord Salisbury, and others; while in the royal suite were Lady Lyttelton, Miss Cavendish, and lords and others in attendance. Melbourne was rather nervous about receiving the royal party, and no wonder, for he had reason to believe that his public career was ended, and that the Conservatives would come in with a good working majority. Beside this he had long been a widower, for his wife, the clever but erratic Lady Caroline Lamb, had died in 1828, when her mental condition left little doubt that much that had appeared strange in her former conduct was to be attributed to aberration of mind. Their son had died at a still earlier date, just as he had reached manhood, and the accomplished minister and humorous man of the world was left very solitary. It is not surprising that he felt deeply that his most cherished occupation was gone when he could no longer be a daily visitor at Windsor or Buckingham Palace. His retirement was the end of his political career; in the following year, 1842, he suffered from a stroke of paralysis, and he died six years afterwards. It must not be supposed, however, that Lord Melbourne was gloomy or disappointed at the prospect of relinquishing office. He appeared rather to be glad of the prospect of rest and the relief from responsibility, and was as cheerful and good-humoured as ever. The tour of visits made a very delightful holiday, amidst scenery so pretty that Prince Albert, speaking of that about Woburn, compared it to the Rosenau in the direction of the Fischbacher Thal; while he was also greatly interested in the antiquity and belongings of Hatfield House.

These excursions were the more emphatically pleasant because of the enthusiastic loyalty displayed by the people wherever the Queen and the Prince appeared. Indeed, this enthusiasm on more than one occasion appears to have taken a rather embarrassing form of expression, as at Dunstable, where, quite disregarding the escort of the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's regiment), numbers of farmers rode with the royal carriage as a kind of loyal body-guard, and raised such a dust as nearly to smother its occupants; or at Woburn Abbey, where, as the Queen records, "a crowd of good, loyal people rode with us part of the way. They so pressed and pushed that it was as if we were hunting." The disturbed condition of the country and the murmurs of distress and consequent discontent had evidently not affected the public regard and personal interest and affection for the Queen. "Nothing could be more enthusiastic and affectionate than our reception *everywhere*," her Majesty wrote to King Leopold; "and I am happy to hear that our presence has left a favourable impression." "The loyalty in this country is certainly very striking." Prince Albert wrote in the same strain to his father, and added: "There is beyond all question a great depth of devotion towards the throne, the constitution, and the church in the English rural population which is most touching to witness."

When parliament met there was no doubt of the fate of the Whig administration, and though the debate on a motion of want of confidence lasted for a fortnight it ended in the ministry finding themselves in a considerable minority. The Queen had invited Lord Melbourne to Windsor on the evening following the division, and on taking leave of him the next morning before he left the castle was much affected. Melbourne maintained his appearance of good spirits, however, and comforted

her Majesty with the assurance that she might with confidence rely for advice and assistance on the ability and judgment of the Prince, who, on his part, expressed his sympathy for her by saying, "It is not alone the minister you lose, but a faithful and attached friend," and at the same time assuring her that he would do all that he could to be of use, though he feared that she would miss Lord Melbourne very much. The ex-minister was not satisfied till he had written to the Queen the evening after bidding farewell, saying that he had formed the highest opinion of Prince Albert's judgment, temper, and discretion, that he felt great consideration and security in the reflection that he left her Majesty in a situation in which she had the inestimable advantage of such advice and assistance, and that he also felt certain that the Queen could not do better than have recourse to it whenever it was needed, and rely upon it with confidence.

This opinion of the Prince was soon endorsed by the incoming minister, who, with the cabinet which he had promptly formed, repaired to Claremont on the 3d of September to kiss hands on their appointment. It must have been very shortly afterwards that Sir Robert Peel, introducing Lord Kingsdown, said that he would find the Prince to be one of the most extraordinary young men he had ever met with, and it is obvious that there was something mutually attractive between the honest and truth-speaking though rather reserved and highly cultured minister and the frank, patient, studious, and accomplished Prince, for in October we find the latter writing to "My dear Sir Robert," and sending for his inspection an édition de luxe of the *Lay of the Nibelungen*, in which the minister had in conversation expressed some interest.

Sir Robert Peel's own knowledge of and sympathy with art would have enabled him to estimate the judgment and pro-

ficiency of the Prince in this direction, but the attainments of his royal highness both in art and science were by this time generally known and appreciated, and the prime-minister had the happy opportunity of proposing that the Prince should become president of a royal commission to continue an inquiry already begun by a committee of the House of Commons, whether advantage should be taken of the rebuilding of the houses of parliament to organize the promotion and encouragement of the fine arts in the United Kingdom.

Nothing could have been more to the Prince's taste, and he entered into the proposal with enthusiasm, but at the same time with his usual thoughtful care. In the same letter which accompanied the book already referred to he wrote to Sir Robert Peel: that after thinking much of the proposed plan he had arrived at the conviction that there had better be no professional artist on the committee, as the benefit of an artist's opinion would be better obtained by taking it upon examination, and this would enable the commission to procure the different opinions of a great number of artists. Moreover, he feared that the discussion upon the various points would not be so free among the laymen if distinguished professors were present, as these would scarcely venture to maintain an opinion in opposition to those of the latter class. This was no less characteristic of the modesty of the Prince than the concluding line of his letter. "I only give you my crude views, and have no wish whatever to press them against the experience of others."

The building of the new houses of parliament would give an opportunity for the practical application and enlarged scope of this commission. On the 14th of October, 1834, the former houses of the legislature, which had long been inadequate in size and accommodation, were almost entirely destroyed

by fire, occasioned by the carelessness of a workman who had been employed to burn the disused "exchequer tallies"—square smooth sticks of wood, in which notches were cut representing the amounts received, and to be paid by, the exchequer. These sticks were split in half lengthwise, one half (the stock) being retained, and its exact counterpart (the counter-stock) being delivered to the person entitled to claim payment at a given date, which with the name of the person was written on the other or uncut edge of the stick. Tallies had been in use in very remote times for keeping accounts, and they were continued in the exchequer,—till a short time before the destruction of the buildings of parliament by the endeavour to get rid of them,—after the substitution of exchequer bills. The man employed to burn them crammed so many into a stove that the flues became overheated, and as these flues were close to if not in actual contact with some of the beams or timbers of the building the fire, carried along their course, burst into flame in several places. The conflagration spread so rapidly that for some time Westminster Hall and the Abbey were in great danger, and when by the help of a floating fire-engine it was finally extinguished, only the speaker's house and some of the public offices remained. The greater part of the records had been saved, and it was found that by refitting and adapting the buildings that had escaped destruction, provision might be made for the assembling of both Houses of Parliament without resorting to Buckingham Palace, which William the Fourth had offered to give up to the purposes of the legislature while new houses of parliament were being built. There was no very great alacrity displayed in this operation, for the first stone of the new and stately buildings had been laid without ceremony at the south-east corner of the speaker's house on the 27th of April,

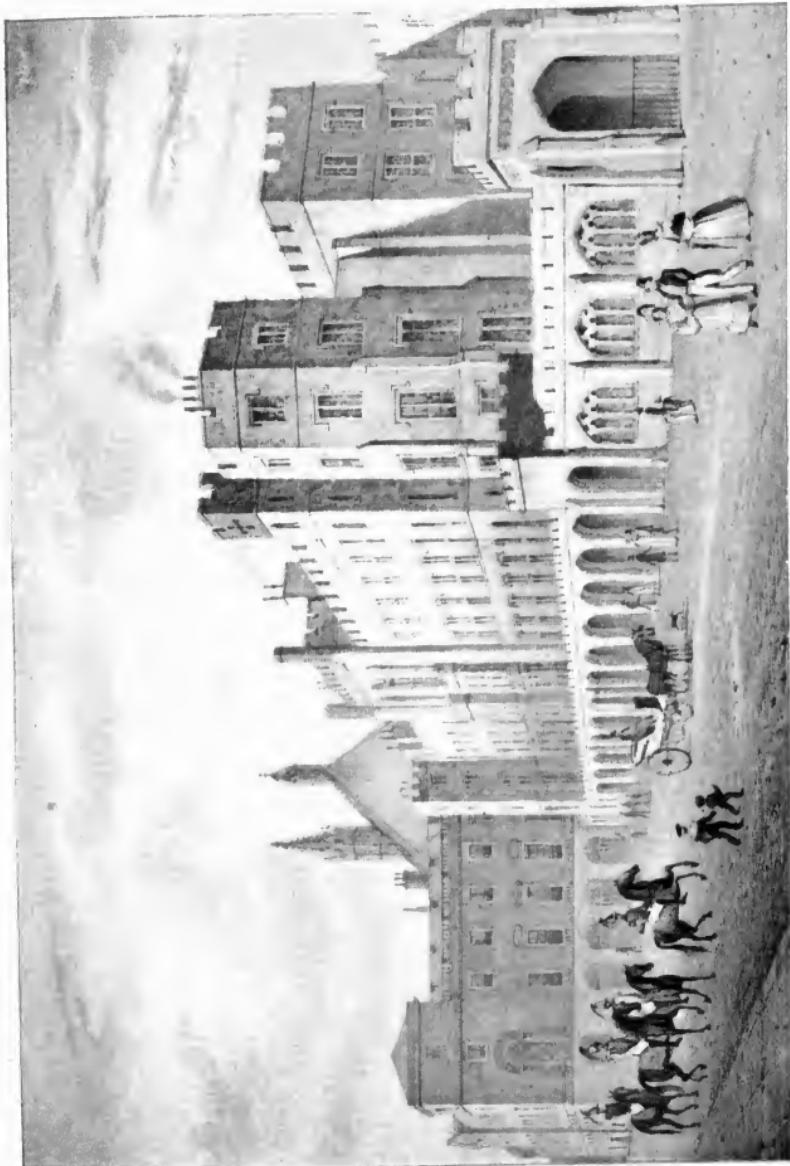
1840; but now that the royal commission was formed the work was likely to be pushed on as rapidly as would be consistent with the magnitude of the structure and the imposing architectural and artistic scheme which was to be considered.

Sir Robert Peel was able to tell the Prince that the intimation of his consenting to preside at the commission had been received by the House of Commons with cordial satisfaction in every quarter of the house. His Royal Highness had made it a condition of his taking any part in it that the selection of the committee should be without party distinction, and this was faithfully observed; so that the Prince could say not only that the selection appeared to him to be an admirable one, but that he rejoiced that party distinctions had been excluded from that *national* undertaking.

The associations and the objects of this commission were in accordance with the tastes and the abilities of the Prince, and he was deeply sensible of the opportunity it afforded him of becoming more intimately acquainted with some of the most distinguished men of the day under conditions altogether without reference to politics. We learn that he told the Queen that he felt he owed to Sir Robert Peel his first initiation into public life, for that this commission was the commencement of his connection with the leading public and literary men of this country. It taught him more, he said, than anything else had done, and he always talked of it with pleasure. The commission itself consisted of Lord Lyndhurst, the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount Melbourne, Lord Ashburton, Lord Colborne, the Speaker (afterwards Lord Eversley), the Earl of Lincoln, Lord John Russell, Lord Francis Egerton, Lord Palmerston, Sir Robert Peel, Sir James Graham, Sir

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AS THEY WERE BEFORE THE FIRE

The Palace of Westminster is a royal palace only in name, but as the meeting-place of the Mother of Parliaments it is naturally one of the most interesting buildings in Britain, or even in the world. The magnificent Gothic pile which now represents this palace was one of the greatest architectural triumphs of Victoria's reign, and the mode of its decoration was largely due to the initiative of the late Prince Consort. When the young queen ascended the throne the houses of the legislature were without sufficient or suitable accommodation, for in October 1834 the palace had been destroyed by fire. The present structure, begun in 1840, was designed by Sir Charles Barry and executed under his superintendence with the invaluable assistance of Augustus Welby Pugin, a master of Gothic.



House of Commons

House of Lords

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AS THEY WERE BEFORE THE FIRE

Robert Inglis, Mr. Gally Knight, Mr. Benjamin Hawes, Mr. Henry Hallam, Mr. Samuel Rogers, Mr. George Vivian, and Mr. Thomas Vyse, to whom were subsequently (May, 1844) added Mr. (afterwards Lord) Macaulay and Lord Mahon.¹

The birth of the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace on the 9th of November, 1841, greatly increased the happiness of the Queen and Prince Albert. The archbishop and the chief officers of state as usual awaited the event, and the Duchess of Kent had returned from Germany to be present. Mrs. Brough, one of the trusted domestics at Claremont—where she had been employed previous to her marriage—and who was well known to the Queen, was selected as nurse to the infant prince.

The public interest manifested throughout the country was an evidence that the nation had shared the hope of the Queen, and rejoiced in its fulfilment. The birthday of the prince being Lord-mayor's Day, the civic dignitaries were among the large number of distinguished persons who went to offer their congratulations two days afterwards, when they were received by Prince Albert, the royal babe being brought into the room and carried round that he might be seen by all who were assembled.

The birth of an heir to the throne was of course celebrated

¹ Of those who were associated with Prince Albert in that commission several were already advanced in years; and few were living when in the spring of 1861, not long before his own lamented death, his Royal Highness remarked to the Queen that nearly all his commissioners were dead. Her Majesty made a memorandum of this observation in 1874, when the only survivors were Lord John Russell, Lord Stanhope, and Lord Eversley, who as Mr. Charles Shaw-Lefevre had been speaker of the House of Commons from 1839 to 1857. On the occasion of the attendance of the members of the legislature at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on the 22d of May this year (1887), where divine service was held to celebrate the jubilee of her Majesty's reign, Viscount Eversley, the latest survivor of the commission, walked to the church with Viscount Hampden, followed by the present speaker of the House of Commons, who led the procession of members from Westminster Hall to the church.

by general festivities, and the royal clemency was extended to prisoners and convicts, numbers of whom had their sentences commuted or their liberty restored.

On the 14th of December the Queen, by letters patent, created her infant son Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester: though it may be supposed that the ceremonial of investment was to be "taken as performed," since it was stated that the Queen thus ennobled and invested him with the principality and earldom "by girding him with a sword, by putting a coronet on his head and a gold ring on his finger, and also by delivering a gold rod into his hand that he may preside there and direct and defend these parts." The titles which the Prince directly inherited were those of a Duke of Saxony (by right of his father); and by right of his mother, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, and Great Steward of Scotland. The Queen quickly recovered strength, and on the 21st of November, the birthday of the princess-royal, was able to record in her journal her heartfelt love and gratitude when "dearest little pussy in such a smart white merino dress trimmed with blue, which mama had given her, and a pretty cap," was brought in by Prince Albert and placed on her bed.

On the 6th of December the court was once more at Windsor, and there were letters to be written, especially to Uncle Leopold, letters simple and impulsive, speaking of domestic happiness and affection as the true compensation for inevitable trials and vexations. Christmastide was to be kept in the same pleasant fashion as in the previous year, with Christmas-trees and decorations; but "To think," wrote the young mother, "that we have two children now, and one who enjoys the sight already, is like a dream." Prince Albert, in a letter to his father,

seemed to echo the tender sentiment: "To-day I have two children of my own to make gifts to, who, they know not why, are full of happy wonder at the German Christmas-tree and its radiant candles."

The festivities were enjoyed in home-like, merry fashion. On the last night of the old year the dance was kept up till midnight to usher in the new; but as the clock finished striking twelve there was a pause in the middle of the dance, and a flourish of trumpets was sounded according to the German fashion, "which," wrote the Queen in her journal, "had a fine solemn effect, and quite affected dear Albert, who turned pale and had tears in his eyes, and pressed my hand very warmly. It touched me, too, for I felt that he must think of his dear native country which he has left for me."

Preparations for the christening of the Prince of Wales in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, next occupied the court, for it was decided that the ceremony should be performed with more state than had attended previous royal baptisms within the palace, and one of the first considerations was the choice of a principal sponsor. The difficulty of selecting one out of many distinguished relatives was avoided by requesting King Frederick William IV. of Prussia to come to England and perform the office, and as he was sovereign of the chief Protestant nation on the Continent the choice was generally approved. There was still another difficulty, for leading politicians in Austria, Russia, and France were determined to see in the proposal an intention to give the visit political importance, and at once began to intrigue for the purpose of preventing it, while even in Prussia itself a good many of the court suspected, or professed to suspect, that the king, aided by Baron Bunsen, would take the opportunity of promoting one of his strange fancies—the Anglicanizing

of the Prussian Church. The Prussian monarch, like many rather loose-minded people, had a will of his own, and determined to disregard all the attempts to prevent a visit which he had long desired, and he even declined to make the journey by way of France and call on Louis Philippe. There appears to have been no political significance whatever in the matter. The king was, of course, an honoured guest, and was received on his arrival at Greenwich by Prince Albert, who took him to Windsor, where the Queen received him at the entrance-door of the castle with the usual ceremonial kiss and profound "courtesys." He—a fat middle-aged gentleman with a somewhat insignificant though pleasing face and not much hair—apologized profusely for appearing in common morning attire. He had the reputation of being an accomplished man, and seems to have possessed kindly and very agreeable manners; could tell a good story, and had a fund of witty anecdote. He was soon at home with the Queen, who made him dance with her in a quadrille during the festivities that followed the christening, though he had long given up dancing; and altogether he made a most favourable impression on those who were in the royal circle.

The Baroness Bunsen, who afterwards wrote an amusing and rather gushing account of the proceedings, says: "28th January, 1842. Came by railway to Windsor, and found that in the York Tower a comfortable set of rooms were awaiting us. The upper housemaid gave us tea and bread and butter—very refreshing; when dressed we went together to the corridor, soon met Lord de la Warr, the Duchess of Buccleuch, and Lord and Lady Westmoreland—the former showed us where to go—that is, to walk through the corridor, (a fairy scene—lights, pictures, moving figures of courtiers unknown) the apartments, which we passed through one after another till we reached the magnificent ball-

room where the guests were assembled to await the Queen's appearance. Among these guests stood our king himself, punctual to quarter past seven o'clock; soon came Prince Albert, to whom Lord de la Warr named me, when he spoke to me of Rome. We had not been there long before two gentlemen, walking in by the same door by which we had entered, and then turning and making profound bows towards the open door, showed that the Queen was coming. She approached me directly and said, with a gracious smile, 'I am very much pleased to see you;' then passed on, and after speaking a few moments to the King took his arm and moved on, 'God save the Queen' having begun to sound from the Waterloo Gallery, where the Queen has always dined since the king has been with her. . . . The scene was one of fairy tales, of undescribed magnificence, the proportions of the hall, the mass of light in suspension, the gold plate, and the table glittering with a thousand lights in branches of a proper height not to meet the eye. The king's health was drunk, then the Queen's, and then the Queen went out, followed by all her ladies. During the half-hour that elapsed before Prince Albert and the king followed the Queen, she did not sit, but went round to speak to the different ladies. She asked after my children, and gave me an opportunity of thanking her for the gracious permission to behold her Majesty so soon after my arrival. As soon as the king came the Queen went into the ball-room. . . . At half-past eleven, after the Queen had retired, I set out on my travels to my bed-chamber. I might have looked and wandered about some miles before I had found my door of exit, but was helped by an old gentleman, I believe Lord Albemarle."

On the 25th, at 10 o'clock in the morning, the imposing rite was performed in St. George's Chapel. It was a splendid scene;

the company consisting of ambassadors, cabinet ministers and their ladies, knights of the Garter with the insignia of their orders, archbishops, bishops, and officers and ladies of the household, the royal dukes and the princely cousins from Saxe-Coburg and Saxe-Weimar, who were in the Queen's procession, where the Duke of Wellington bore the sword of state before her Majesty and Prince Albert, the lord-chamberlain and the lord-steward walking on either side. Some of the officers of the household attended the King of Prussia, who was accompanied to the chapel by the other sponsors,—the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg represented by the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Saxe-Gotha represented by the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Sophia represented by the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, and Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg. The Queen afterwards wrote in her journal: "It is impossible to describe how beautiful and imposing the effect of the whole scene was in the fine old chapel, with the banners, the music, and the light shining on the altar."

The infant prince, carried by his nurse, was conducted from the chapter-house to the chapel by the lord-chamberlain and other high officials. The Duchess of Buccleuch, mistress of the robes, took him from the nurse and placed him in the arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he received the names of Albert Edward, those of his father and his maternal grandfather. Having, as the *Times* said, behaved during the ceremony "with princely decorum," he was restored to his nurse and reconducted to the chapter-house. There was a full choral service, and it had been proposed to conclude the ceremony with an anthem composed for the occasion by Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Elvey; but Prince Albert, with his usual clear good sense, had said: "No anthem. If the service ends by an anthem we shall all go out

criticising the music. We will have something we all know—something in which we can all join—something devotional. The 'Hallelujah Chorus,' we shall all join in that with our hearts." Accordingly the "Hallelujah Chorus" suitably concluded the ceremony.

The King of Prussia was afterwards invested with the order of the Garter by the Queen, a chapter of the order being held for the purpose; and in the evening there was a great banquet in St. George's Hall, where the health of the Prince of Wales was followed by those of the King of Prussia and the Queen and Prince Albert, claret being served from an enormous silver or silver-gilt vessel containing a quantity equal to a hogshead of wine. A grand concert in the Waterloo Gallery brought the proceedings to an end.

On the 3d of February parliament was opened by the Queen, and not only the inauguration of a new government, but the presence of the King of Prussia and other distinguished foreign visitors appeared to give special importance to the occasion. Again to quote from the Baroness Bunsen, who, it may be mentioned, was an Englishwoman, the wife of the accomplished and learned Prussian ambassador:—"The throngs in the streets, in the windows, on every spot where foot could stand—all looking so pleased—the splendid Horse Guards, the Grenadier Guards, the yeomen of the Body Guard; then, in the House of Lords, the peers in their robes, the beautifully dressed ladies, with many, many beautiful faces; last, the procession of the Queen's entry, and herself, looking worthy and fit to be the converging point of so many rays of grandeur. . . . The composure with which she filled the throne, while awaiting the Commons, was a test of character—no fidget and no apathy. Then her voice and enunciation could not be more perfect. In

short, it could not be said that *she did well*, but she *was* the Queen; she *was*, and felt herself to be, the acknowledged chief among grand national realities. Placed in a narrow space behind her Majesty's mace-bearers, and peeping over their shoulders, I was enabled to hide and subdue the emotion I felt, in consciousness of the mighty pages in the world's history condensed in the words, so impressively uttered in the silver tones of that feminine voice—Peace and War, the fate of millions, relations of countries, exertions of power felt to the extremities of the globe, alterations of corn-laws, the birth of a future sovereign, mentioned in solemn thankfulness to Him in whose hands are nations and rulers!"

There were indeed momentous events occurring, the possible issues of which were sufficient to cause the deepest anxiety, and the whole political horizon was overshadowed with clouds, many of which seemed to forebode danger if not disaster. Some of these clouds had already broken into storms. The most violent and alarming was in Afghanistan, whence very terrible news had arrived. The story of Cabul and the destruction of a British army, the dreadful sufferings of the fugitives in the Khyber Pass, and the return of our troops to the territory which had been occupied, forms no essential part of the present narrative except in so far as it relates to the general aspect of the affairs of the country and to those associations with the Queen which must inevitably belong to all important events affecting the condition and prospects of the nation, but we cannot entirely pass it over without some distinctive notice.

During the governorship of the Earl of Auckland the plain of the Punjab was in the hands of the warlike Sikhs, then under the rule of the famous Runjeet Singh, the Lion of Lahore. This plain of the Punjab lies between the north-

western boundary of British India and Persia, separated from a territory of desert by the mountainous region of Afghanistan, the great natural barrier between India and western Asia, and inhabited by a brave and hardy race. Through these highlands there are but two passes to the lands of the Indus, one of which, the Khyber Pass, formed by the valley of the Cabul river, has strong natural positions for fortification—Jellalabad and Peshawur—the chief centres of communication in the territory being Cabul, Ghuznee, Candahar, and Herat. In Afghanistan there had been a struggle for supremacy between Shah Sujah and Dost Mohammed, who ruled at Cabul; and Shah Sujah being defeated had taken refuge in the Sikh country, the ruler of which, Runjeet Singh, had, in the meantime, seized the province of Peshawur and some important positions in the north-west. Dost Mohammed of Cabul thereupon made war upon Runjeet Singh and called on the British to help him, at the same time that Shah Sujah himself had taken refuge with the British force, from whom he asked protection.

As we could or did not under the circumstances consent to help Dost Mohammed, he applied to Persia, which had a keen eye on Herat, and was supposed to be on good terms with Russia. It appeared to Lord Auckland that the best way to put an end to probable Persian and Russian intervention was to espouse the cause of Shah Sujah and commence hostilities against the ruler of Cabul, especially as Herat, then under the rule of an independent chief, was besieged by a Persian force, which, however, was defeated by the defenders under Lieutenant Pottinger. The governor-general decided that the British must turn out Dost Mohammed and be in command at Cabul. Ships were sent to the Persian Gulf to draw away the force from Herat, and though Runjeet Singh, of course, refused to let our

troops march through Lahore, and we had to make our way, not without opposition, through Scinde, we took Ghuzni, reached Cabul, drove out Dost Mohammed, and set up Shah Sujah, who was detested by the people, and we were obliged to maintain him, or, in other words, to maintain our own position, by keeping a large army in that remote place at an enormous expenditure of money. Runjeet Singh was to hold possession of Peshawur, which was still claimed by the Afghans. The thanks of parliament were voted to the commander-in-chief, Major-general Elphinstone, and there was a good deal of glorification among people who did not quite understand the military situation—among them Macaulay, who, because he had recently returned from India with all the honours of his new code, was supposed to be something of an authority. The Duke of Wellington, however, who knew more about it, while not refusing a tribute to the courage and endurance of the army, shook his head very seriously.

In spite of the apathy of the people of Cabul and their undisguised dislike of the ruler, whom they regarded as the tool of the British, whose pensioner he had long been, our officers there seemed to think they were so secure that they sent to India for their wives and families, and a considerable number of troops were sent back, the remaining force (at the end of 1839) being about 8000 men, consisting of Europeans and Sepoys. Dost Mohammed had sought refuge in Bokhara, but having reason to fear treachery, gave himself up to the British, an event which increased the hatred of the people at Cabul against us and Shah Sujah. Runjeet Singh, the "Old Lion," died, and the Sikhs were ready to expend their fury on our troops if they had the chance.

Akbar Khan, the son of Dost Mohammed, was intriguing

and conspiring to retrieve the territory of which we had taken possession. The situation was one of extreme peril, and demanded constant watchfulness, activity, and promptitude, for, in fact, the whole force lying in false security at Cabul had been trapped. Sir William Macnaghten, the civil envoy, was anxious to return to British territory as he had been made governor of Bombay. Major-general Elphinstone was old and deficient in the energy and promptitude that were necessary in a perilous crisis, even if the peril had been realized; and Sir Alexander Burnes, who succeeded Macnaghten as British minister, and upon whom the main responsibility for the Cabul enterprise was afterwards laid, was not aware of the threatening danger.

At last it burst upon them. In October, 1841, Sir Robert Sale left Cabul for Jellalabad, on the route to our own territory; but the tribes were in revolt, the mountain passes had to be traversed, and winter had set in. Before he had ended his march Cabul itself was in a flame of insurrection. On the 2d of November the mob surrounded Burnes's house; his military secretary was shot, and he, his brother, and Macnaghten, who had not been able to get out of the city, were treacherously murdered, the latter by Akbar Khan himself.

Then came the humiliation of opening negotiations with the chiefs, for the supply of food was failing and was soon exhausted, and Sale, who had reached Jellalabad, and General Nott, who was at Candahar, could render no help to the perishing creatures at Cabul. There was nothing for them but to attempt to make their way through the Khyber Pass, taking with them the women and children; but before they set out they had to submit to relinquish all the treasure and all the guns except six. The forts had already been given up, and the cantonments, where the starving troops and non-combatants dwelt, were at the

mercy of their treacherous foes, who kept none of the promises that they had made, though four officers were left as hostages and 40,000 rupees were paid to the Afghans. Large sums were paid to the murderous Akbar for the escort which he promised but never provided. On the 6th of January, 1842, the dreadful retreat commenced; but through the deep snow and exposed to the bitter cold little progress could be made, for it was the depth of winter, and the ill-furnished troops could do little to diminish the difficulties of a route that lay across a river which had to be bridged over, and along wild desert and rugged mountains. There were about 4500 soldiers, including 2800 natives, with six guns, and 12,000 camp-followers and non-combatants, including women, among whom were Lady Sale, Lady Macnaghten and other ladies, who were no better provided than the others. Between ranges of mountains, from the heights of which the treacherous tribesmen fired upon the mass of wretched fugitives, who could not make more progress than five or six miles a day, the journey proceeded. There was not enough provision for more than a third of their number, they were in rags, and at night the few tattered tents afforded little shelter from the icy wind. On the third day they entered the Pass of Khoord Cabul for the Khyber Pass. Between ranges of high mountains and through half-frozen torrents, which had to be forded, or over six feet of snow, the gorge extended for six miles. Lady Sale, with marvellous fortitude, pressed on, and encouraged others to follow her example. Under the hail of bullets men, women, and children fell wounded to die. The outlet of the pass was crowded with the dead,—the stream was red with blood. At first the soldiers had been mutinous and disorganized; but after a time, in the face of the common danger, they grew steady, and with their old spirit and deter-

mination drove back their assailants whenever the latter, because of superior numbers, ventured to come to close quarters and a hand-to-hand fight. Akbar Khan more than once communicated with the remaining officers, and promised aid which never came. One of his later proposals, however, was accepted and fulfilled. Lady Sale was wounded, but she and the other women and the children who had escaped were to be taken in his custody, with the old and suffering General Elphinstone, to Peshawur. It was also granted that the husbands of the surviving married ladies should go with their wives. Thus a number of the fugitives escaped massacre or death from cold and exhaustion. On the 12th and 13th of January the force numbered but a few men; but that devoted band went on, and thirty soldiers, all who were left at the later date, died like brave men fighting against numbers. They had made a stand upon the slope of a hill and sold the remnant of their lives dearly till they were overpowered and slain. Only the officers left as hostages remained of that army of Cabul—British Sepoys and camp-followers all had perished except one man, who, on the very day that the last gallant band died face to face with the enemy, rode wounded and fainting up to the walls of Jellalabad: his hand half consciously grasping a broken sword; the pony that he rode worn out and staggering. He took the fearful intelligence to General Sale, who, with his officers and the small force under his command, was himself holding a perilous position.

This news had reached England only the day before Sir Robert Peel proposed to parliament (March, 1842) a measure of finance by which, by means of a tax not exceeding $7d.$ in the pound on all incomes over £150 a year, he sought to save the credit of the country, and to provide for demands which had to be satisfied at a time of falling revenue and with a deficit of two

and a half millions, increased to twice that amount by the cost of this Afghan expedition. With supreme self-control, and unabated confidence in the spirit and resources of the nation, the prime-minister proposed and carried his measure, though he had the weight upon his heart of the ill tidings which were then known only to himself and the members of the government.

The Queen was deeply grieved, not only by the disaster which had befallen British arms in Afghanistan, but by the sufferings of those who had made that march to death, and of the women and children who had escaped the last fatal stage of the journey. It seemed evident that a bold financial measure could alone restore public confidence and help to revive the trade of the country; and both her Majesty and the Prince believed in the sound and practical ability of Peel, an opinion which was rapidly endorsed by the rising of the funds, and a general hopeful tendency, which was justified by the gradual, if slow, restoration of commercial enterprise.

The Queen had clearly recognized that the measure was one of national and even patriotic appeal, and from the first moment had made known to the prime-minister that she desired not to be exempted from the payment of the income-tax. The deep distress and, partly as a consequence, the rioting and disturbances which grew to so alarming a pitch in the northern mining, manufacturing, and ironworking districts, were not suppressed without the military as well as the civil force being several times employed. As we have seen, some who called themselves Chartists, if not important in point of numbers or influence, were persistent in fomenting disturbances, but the taxes on food, especially what was called the "bread-tax," were assigned as a reason for much of the disorder. In several parts of the kingdom the suffering of the people was appalling, and in many

centres of industry the pressure upon the poor-rates because of the large number of starving families became very serious: in Leeds, for instance, it was declared that one-fifth of the entire population was dependent on parochial relief. Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, and the promoters of the powerful and active Anti-Corn-law League were opposed to the adoption of a sliding-scale by which the duties on corn might be adjusted, as they argued that to fix a sliding-scale so as to secure to the land-owner a certain price for corn was inconsistent, unless there should also be a sliding-scale for wages, and, indeed, that the starving people should themselves be the judges of when and how much corn was wanted, and that the government had no right to impose a tax on corn for the purpose of adjusting the profits of the land-owners. At the end of the session Mr. Duncombe moved an address to the Queen praying that if no improvement in the condition of the people took place after the prorogation, parliament should be reassembled to consider an alteration of the commerce in corn. The government treated this with silence till the taunts of his opponents roused Peel, who with passionate sarcasm denounced the obstruction of business by these repeated motions against the corn-laws. To this Cobden retorted with equal energy that the salvation of the people from famine or the workhouse was the essence of public business. Would the right honourable baronet, he asked, resist the appeals which had been made to him, or would he rather cherish the true interests of the country and not allow himself to be dragged down by a section of the aristocracy? He must take sides, and that instantly; and should he by so doing displease his political supporters, there was an answer ready. He might say that he found the country in distress, and he gave it prosperity; the people starving, and he gave them food; that he found the large

capitalists of the country paralysed, and he made them prosperous. This was most significant language viewed by the light of subsequent events. The whole moral atmosphere of parliament was growing electric, the debates not only earnest but impassioned.

Happily the harvest of 1842 was an abundant one, and this with the relief certainly obtained by Peel's financial scheme had an animating effect on the country; but dark clouds still lowered. There were disturbances and outrages in Ireland, and O'Connell had promised that 1843 should positively be the repeal year, by which he probably meant that there should be an Irish parliament on College Green, and that what was at that time included in "Home Rule" should be effected. Riots were increasing in Wales, because of the not unreasonable opposition of the small farmers to the charges for maintenance of highways, and the impositions of tolls which pressed hardly on the poor cotters. War was still going on in China. It began in 1838, in consequence of misunderstanding and high-handed proceedings on the part of the Chinese commissioner Lin. Under cover of the declaration of the Chinese government that the trade in opium should not be carried on, and though our government had made known that it would not protect British ships carrying the forbidden commodity, he took the opportunity of proceeding against our commerce by blockading our factories at Canton, where Captain Elliot had been compelled to surrender 20,000 chests of opium. A commission was given to Sir Henry Pottinger, who was sent out with full powers for peace or war, and it came to war, a result which was condemned by a large number of the most just and patriotic of Englishmen, and was spoken of with bated breath, and not without some sense of shame in many hearts long after the Chinese had been utterly defeated in an unequal struggle by our engines of destruction,

and had paid an indemnity of above five millions sterling, including the value of the opium that had been confiscated in 1838.

Across the Atlantic the Americans had bitter grievances against us because of the right claimed by our cruisers to overhaul American vessels to see if they were British ships carrying on the slave-trade under the United States' flag. In addition to this was a very awkward dispute about the settlement of the Maine and Canadian frontier. At the same time we had to guard against disaffection by maintaining military forces at the Cape and in the West Indies, and to keep an eye on Portugal, where an insurrection was prevented by our fleet appearing in the Tagus.

The Queen and Prince Albert had much to do with the business of the state, and these duties were largely increased as the ability and sound judgment of the Prince became recognized by ministers. To the ordinary daily work that belonged to political and foreign affairs were added those public claims from various bodies and societies for the promotion of art, science, and objects of benevolence to which the Prince gave willing and earnest aid. His speeches were serious, brief, and admirably to the point on occasions when he was invited to preside at meetings of this kind. One of them, delivered at a dinner for supporting the claims of the Literary Fund, was remarkably pithy, when, in proposing the prosperity of the institution, he said: "It stands unrivalled in any country, and ought to command our warmest sympathies, as providing for the exigencies of those who, following the call of genius and forgetting every other consideration, pursue merely the cultivation of the human mind and science. What can then be more proper for us than gratefully to remember the benefits derived from their disinterested exertions, and cheerfully to contribute to their wants!"

The excursions which had been made by the Queen and Prince Albert had elicited such ample evidences of loyalty and affection that the Queen had good reason for showing her confidence in the good-will of all classes of her subjects. Her anxiety occasioned by the disturbed condition of the country was unaccompanied by any distrust of the manifest regard in which she was held, or of the public belief in her desire to aid in the adoption of measures to mitigate the prevalent distress. We have already noted that some costly and splendid entertainments in which the court participated, were in great measure designed for the purpose of stimulating trade, and although these festivities caused some expressions of discontent because of their alleged gaiety and extravagance, such objections were but temporary, for it soon became known that the Queen had not been led away by any thoughtless desire for amusement or for unnecessary and vain display in promoting those brilliant assemblies; and when the suggestion was made that their import was misunderstood and their consistency suspected, they were not repeated. Any murmurs that they may have occasioned were of no deep significance and immediately died away or were lost amidst renewed expressions of attachment and loyalty, which rose to enthusiastic declarations when shortly afterwards her Majesty was in imminent danger from the attempts of malicious and ignorant assailants.

On Sunday the 29th of May (1842), at two o'clock, the Queen and Prince Albert were returning from the Chapel Royal, St. James's, and as they drove slowly along the Mall the usual crowd of spectators under the trees on the left bowed and cheered. Just as the carriage had reached Stafford House, Prince Albert saw a man step out from the crowd, and present a pistol full at him at a distance of only two paces, so that he

heard the snap of the trigger. The pistol missed fire, and nobody but the Prince appeared to have noticed the occurrence, the Queen, who had been bowing to the people on the right, having observed nothing. On reaching the palace his Royal Highness cautiously asked the footmen who had been at the back of the carriage if they had noticed a man step forward and stretch out his hand towards the carriage as if he wanted to throw a petition; but they had not seen it. The Queen and the Prince were at once impressed with the importance of keeping the matter from the knowledge of anyone in the palace except Colonel Arbuthnot, one of their equerries, whom they directed immediately to report what had happened to the inspector of police, to Sir Robert Peel, and to Sir James Graham. All was quiet near the palace, the crowd had dispersed after having seen the Queen, and when Prince Albert went out on the balcony there were no signs of such commotion as would have followed had the offender been apprehended. In the afternoon when Sir Robert Peel arrived with the head of the police to make further inquiries the Prince, whose statement and description of the man were taken down in writing, began almost to distrust himself and what he had seen while the carriage was driving rapidly homeward. The next morning, however, there arrived at the palace a boy (named Pearse), who stuttered a great deal, but declared that he had seen the man present the pistol but not fire, and had heard him exclaim, "Fool that I was, not to fire!" An elderly gentleman who had also witnessed it took down the boy's name and address; but as he had not put in an appearance, the lad went next morning to the palace to tell what he knew. Every precaution was taken by the police; and though the Queen was agitated and much affected by the still threatening danger, she determined, following medical

advice, to go out again, since had she and the Prince remained in seclusion while search was being made, they might have shut themselves up for an indefinite time; and as the culprit knew nothing of his attempt having been discovered he would perhaps be arrested while skulking about the palace.

At four o'clock on the Monday evening they drove out, the carriage going at a rapid pace, and the two equerries, Colonel Wylde and Colonel Arbuthnot, riding close to it. It may be imagined that the police were on the alert, and that the Queen and the Prince, to use the common phrase, "had their eyes about them" as they went through the parks and towards Hampstead. It was a delightful early summer's day, and there were hosts of people on foot to greet them as they went quickly past. Nothing occurred on the road till, near the end of the journey back, when the carriages descending Constitution Hill having reached the part of the road between the Green Park and the garden wall, a shot was fired from a spot just opposite that on which Oxford had made his attempt two years before. The assailant stood only five paces from the left-hand side of the carriage, so that Prince Albert recognized him at once as the fellow who had made the previous attempt. The Queen exhibited the calm demeanour which she usually preserved under circumstances of danger, though she heard the report of the pistol, the shot from which, if there was any shot, passed below the carriage, the miscreant's hand having been dashed down by a police-constable, while he was instantly seized by a private of the Fusilier Guards and conveyed to the lodge adjoining the palace, where he was searched, and a ball, a little powder, and the discharged pistol, which was still warm, were taken from him. He refused to confess what were his motives for the abominable attempt, and would give no account of himself.

Count Mensdorff and the Duchess of Kent were in a carriage closely following that of the Queen when the shot was fired, and the Duchess Bernhard of Weimar was on horseback a few yards off. It is recorded by Lady Bloomfield (then Miss Liddell, one of her Majesty's maids of honour in waiting) that nothing had been said to the ladies of the household of what had been expected to occur, and that, contrary to the Queen's usual custom, neither of the ladies had been desired to accompany her, as her Majesty would not unnecessarily expose them to the danger which she herself had to encounter.

Prince Albert, writing to his father the next day, said: "We felt as if a load had been taken off our hearts, and we thanked the Almighty for having preserved us a second time from so great a danger." The Queen preserved her self-possession wonderfully, and when Mr. Anson saw her the same evening she told him she had fully expected to be attacked, and it was a relief to her to have it over. "She had for some time been under the impression that one of these mad attempts would be made, and that she never could have existed under the uncertainty of a concealed attack. She would much rather run the immediate risk at any time, than have the presentiment of danger constantly hovering over her. She had been much gratified by the kind feeling people had shown. It was perhaps not so boisterous as on the occasion of Oxford's attempt, but the feeling now was of a deeper cast." Writing to King Leopold the day after the occurrence, the Queen said: "I was really not at all frightened, and feel very proud at dear Uncle Mensdorff¹ calling me 'very courageous,' which I shall ever remember with peculiar pride, coming from so distinguished an officer as he is. . . .

¹ Count Mensdorff, an officer of high rank in the Austrian service, had married the elder sister of the Duchess of Kent. His son was the fellow-student and friend of Prince Albert.

The feeling of horror is very great in the public, and great affection is shown us."

On receiving the intelligence of the outrage, both houses of parliament at once adjourned the business of the sitting, and next day presented addresses of heart-felt congratulation to the Queen, who looked pale and somewhat depressed, but in the evening accompanied Prince Albert to the Italian opera, where outbursts of cheering were repeated during the singing of the national anthem, and the reception given to Prince Albert, as well as to the Queen, was only to be described as "tremendous."

The criminal who had fired the pistol was named John Francis, and was the son of a machinist at Drury Lane Theatre. He had been for some time out of work, but it was not apparently from any cause but an evil desire for notoriety that he made the attempt with which he was charged. After being examined by the privy-council he was tried at the Central Criminal Court, and his demeanour was that of an impudent young scoundrel. He made coarsely witty replies to the questions put to him, and endeavoured to brazen it out by chaffing the judges. Perhaps as an imitator of Oxford he anticipated a lenient sentence, as he could not be brought in insane; but the hardened young villain broke down utterly when sentence of death was passed on him, and he was removed fainting from the dock. Neither the Queen nor Prince Albert could endure that the capital sentence should be inflicted, however, and on their strong representation that it had not been proved that the pistol was loaded, and that he therefore should not be executed for attempting to kill or wound, the sentence was, after grave consultation, commuted to transportation for life.

The Queen and the Prince, who had shared the danger, were both of opinion that while the law treated such dastardly

attempts as "high treason" and gave them almost the importance of a state trial, with the capital sentence to follow on conviction, a commutation of the sentence was the only course to be pursued, so far as their own feelings were concerned; and that these conditions gave more encouragement to such offences than a trial for misdemeanour with a severe punishment that would carry with it a sense of degradation and infamy instead of a sort of notoriety. This opinion was remarkably emphasized by another attempt which was made the very day after the commutation of Francis' sentence was announced, but which, as the evidence proved, had been contemplated some days beforehand.

On Sunday the 3d of July (1842), as the Queen with Prince Albert and King Leopold were on the way to the Chapel Royal in the same carriage, a wretched deformed creature named Bean, a chemist's assistant, was seen by several persons to level a pistol at the royal party. The pistol missed fire, and a plucky lad of sixteen, named Dassett, who wrenched the weapon from Bean's hand and collared him, called upon some of the crowd for help. The people around treated the matter as a joke, and Dassett and his brother dragged the hunchback to the place where some policemen were standing; but they also thought he was making fun of them and resented it by pushing him aside, so that between the constables and the crowd he was obliged to release his hold of the culprit, who got away, leaving his pistol in the lad's hand. Another policeman, to whom he appealed, showing him the weapon, was full of alacrity to take somebody into custody, and would have arrested Dassett on the charge of attempting to shoot at the Queen, and pretending that he had taken the pistol from someone else. Happily other people, who had witnessed the whole affair, came up and prevented this, and

the pistol was taken to a police inspector, who found that it contained powder, paper tightly rammed down, and some pieces of a clay pipe—a dangerous charge if the weapon had gone off.

The Queen did not know of the affair till after she had returned to the palace, and on being told of it she showed no alarm, but said she had expected a repetition of such attempts while the law remained unaltered.

Sir Robert Peel, who was at Cambridge, hurried to London, and went at once to the palace to consult with Prince Albert. The Queen entered the room while they were conversing, and the prime-minister, usually so reserved and undemonstrative in manner, could not control his emotion, and burst into tears.

It was quickly decided that offences against the life of the Queen, such as those which had been committed by Oxford, Francis, and Bean, should be punished as misdemeanours, and that the punishment should be degrading. On the 12th of July a bill was brought forward in parliament by which the penalty for such an offence was to be transportation for seven years or imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three years, the culprit to be publicly or privately whipped as often, and in such manner and form, as the court should direct, not exceeding thrice. This bill became law, on the 16th of July, and on the 25th of August Bean was tried for misdemeanour and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

Amidst the trouble of these events and the pressure and anxiety of public affairs came a bright and pleasant visit. On the 12th of May, Prince Ernest, the beloved elder brother of Prince Albert, had married the Princess Alexandrine of Baden, and would fain have had his brother beside him at Carlsruhe on the occasion of his wedding, but the pressure of public affairs here made it desirable for Prince Albert not to leave the Queen

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Buckingham Palace, the favourite town residence of the late Queen Victoria, is situated almost at the junction of the Mall and Birdcage Walk, facing the western end of St. James's Park. The site was formerly a fashionable resort known as Mulberry Garden. Under Charles II we find it occupied by Arlington House, a residence of the Earl of Arlington, one of the famous Cabal; but in 1703 this mansion was replaced by Buckingham House, built for John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham and Normanby, an influential patron of John Dryden. Shortly after his accession to the throne, George III bought the mansion and removed to it from St. James's Palace. In 1775 it was settled on Queen Charlotte in exchange for Somerset House, and for many years afterwards it was popularly known as the Queen's House. The present palace was commenced under George IV in 1825, the architect being John Nash; but it was not completed and occupied till after the accession of Queen Victoria, under whom Edward Blore made extensive improvements and additions. Buckingham Palace has been called the ugliest royal residence in Europe, except St. James's; but it has several magnificent apartments, chief among which is the Yellow Drawing-Room, and a good collection of portraits and other pictures. The grounds cover forty acres.



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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY LONDON STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY

even for so short a time. Her Majesty, however, was deeply interested in the event. "My heart is full, very full, of this marriage," she wrote to King Leopold. "I have entreated Ernest to pass his honeymoon with us, and I beg you to urge him to do it; for he witnessed *our* first happiness, and we must, therefore, witness his." The prince and his bride had not arrived till the first days in July, and there was to be a happy quiet time in the comparatively peaceful seclusion of Claremont, where the Queen would still be close to the metropolis and, so to speak, within call while parliament was sitting.

Just before the departure of the Queen and the Prince for Claremont a very pleasant incident occurred which is illustrative of their simple tastes and of the delight which they both took in music. Mendelssohn, the great composer, was in London and had been more than once to Buckingham Palace, and now, about an hour before the royal party were to start, he came again in response to an invitation from Prince Albert, to try the organ before he left England. The Queen entered the room as he was talking to the Prince, and after all three had helped to pick up a number of loose leaves of music which the wind from the open window had scattered over the floor, Prince Albert played a chorale at the request of Mendelssohn, who, in the letter to his mother describing the visit, says that the performance would have done credit to any professional. Then the great composer played a chorus from his *St. Paul*; Prince Albert cleverly managing "the stops" with great skill and exquisite taste, and both he and the Queen joining in the chorus. The Queen would have sung one of Mendelssohn's songs, but they were all packed up to go to Claremont, and when she went to see if they could be unpacked Prince Albert took the opportunity of presenting his visitor with a handsome ring in a case

and engraved "V. R. 1842," as a souvenir of his farewell visit, specially prepared for the occasion. The Queen came back rather provoked that the songs had been taken away with her other belongings; and she consented to sing something of Glück's; but the Princess of Gotha and the Duchess of Kent came in and there was an adjournment to the Queen's sitting-room, where, while the rest were talking, Mendelssohn rummaged among the music till he found his first set of songs, and the Queen sang one of them (*Schöner und schöner schmückt sich*) "quite charmingly, in strict time and tune, and with very good execution." Afterwards she sang another "quite faultlessly and with charming feeling and expression," but not without some after confession of apprehension lest she had not acquitted herself well in the hearing of the distinguished master. Then Prince Albert sang; and the pleasant visit terminated with a "theme" extemporized by Mendelssohn from the chorale first played and the song sung by the Prince, the composer also bringing in the songs that the Queen had sung. The farewells were exchanged;—as Mendelssohn took his leave, the royal carriages with the scarlet outriders were waiting at the door, and in a quarter of an hour the flag on the archway was lowered, and the *Court Circular* had to announce the departure of the Queen and the Prince for Claremont.

Intelligence of more trouble and grief was to reach them in their pleasant retreat. A letter came from Sir Robert Peel on the 14th of July, announcing that the Duke of Orleans, the admirable and accomplished eldest son of Louis Philippe, had died in consequence of injuries received by leaping from his carriage, the horses having run away near the Porte Maillot, Paris, as he was returning to Plombières from a visit to the king and queen at Neuilly. The affection and esteem in which the

Duke of Orleans was held by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and by his sister the Queen of the Belgians, and the family of Saxe-Coburg, to which he was related by marriage, gave poignancy to the sad news. To King Leopold, who had at once gone with his queen to Paris, Queen Victoria wrote: "I can easily imagine your horror and astonishment. My poor dearest Louise, how my heart bleeds for her! I know how she loved poor Chartres—and deservedly—for he was so noble and good! All our anxiety now is to hear how dear frail Hélène (the Duchess of Orleans) has borne this too dreadful loss. She loved him so, and he was so devoted to her! . . . We can hardly think of anything but this terrible misfortune, and of all of you." The duke was the favourite brother of the Queen of the Belgians, and her grief, the king had written, when she knew that it was him she had lost, "was astounding." When she wrote to Victoria she spoke of the deep affliction of the King and Queen of the French, whose hair had turned white with grief for him who "was the head and the heart and soul of the whole family." There seemed to be a presage of coming calamity for that family, and Victoria and Prince Albert were not without some such feeling. "Perhaps poor Chartres is saved great sorrow and grief," the Queen wrote in a later letter to her uncle. "*Him* we must *not* pity."

Sad, indeed, was the ceremony when the King of the French, at the opening of an extraordinary session of the chambers rendered necessary by the death of the duke, could scarcely control a passionate burst of grief during the reading of the address which referred to the calamity that had befallen his house by the death of "that dearly beloved son, whom I regarded as destined to replace me on the throne, and who was the glory and support of my old age."

Amidst private griefs and troubles and cares of state the Queen and Prince Albert, who, as we have seen, had also to fulfil various public engagements, did not altogether relinquish those recreations in which literature, music, and art were a solace as well as a great delight.

The Queen at about this time gave considerable attention to the study of water-colour drawing, in which she was instructed by Mr. W. Leighton Leitch, an artist who, from very humble beginnings, and after the pursuit of his art under many difficulties and privations, had become a famous teacher and an admired landscape-painter.¹ A portfolio of Mr. Leitch's drawings had been seen at Stafford House, and were so much admired that the Duchess of Sutherland took them to Buckingham Palace to show them to the Queen and the Prince Consort, who were greatly pleased with them and selected two pictures of which the artist received her Majesty's command to make copies.

Lady Canning, for whom the Queen had a great regard, was at that time a pupil of Leitch, and had presented to her Majesty some of her sketches, which the Queen had warmly praised, saying that she was herself very fond of drawing, but that, though she had had several masters, she could not get on as she wished. Her Majesty then inquired of Lady Canning from whom she had received lessons, and on being told that it was Mr. Leitch, at once remembered that this was the artist whose water-colour drawings had pleased her and the Prince so much. Shortly afterwards Leitch was sent for to go down to Windsor to give the Queen a series of lessons in water-colour painting. On arriving at Windsor at the time named, the artist was conducted by a page and accompanied by Lady Canning to the

¹ An extremely interesting memoir of William Leighton Leitch by Mr. A. Macgeorge has been published by Messrs. Blackie & Son, and contains some account of his long and most agreeable associations with the royal family as teacher of drawing.

Queen's apartment across the gallery, and in a minute they were in the presence of the Queen. Lady Canning, who was a step in advance, said, "Your Majesty, this is Mr. Leitch, the artist of whom I have spoken so much, and who wishes to express the happiness he has in being able to attend upon your Majesty." The Queen immediately said: "Mr. Leitch, there are a good many of your pupils here who are my friends, among them Lady Canning, and I admire their talent for water-colour painting. I have therefore sent for you, and hope I may have the benefit of your lessons." Mr. Leitch in his account of the visit says: "I really do not know what I replied to these kind words, but I was charmed with the benevolent expression and gracious manner of her Majesty. Her Majesty then asked, 'Will this table do for the lesson?' 'Perfectly,' I said, 'if the end were moved to the left of the window.' The Queen then put her hand to the table and assisted Lady Canning and me to move it, and we were at once seated ready to begin."

The Queen made a special request that she should have lessons commencing with the same elementary instruction which had been received by Lady Canning, and assured the teacher that she was very conscientious in her work, and would do what she was told to do. The teacher was one who could make the elementary lesson on the principles of composition, of light and shade, and of colour, truly interesting by practical examples, painting as he went on with a facility and effect which seems to have surprised and delighted the royal student, who appointed an early day for a second lesson, and agreed to practise the examples in colour and the method of obtaining the proper shadows. Under Mr. Leitch's instructions his royal pupil made very rapid progress in painting. On the occasion of one of his visits, Mr. Leitch saw a drawing of a subject chosen by the

Queen, done entirely by herself, and, as the artist himself said, "really admirably done." He liked it so much that he obtained permission to take it away in order to have it properly mounted. It was lying in his studio when Stanfield called on him, and observing the drawing asked whose work it was. Leitch said it was by a pupil of his. "Oh, nonsense!" said Stanfield. "Yes," said Leitch, "and it is by a lady." Stanfield looked at it again and said, "Well, she paints too well for an amateur. She will be soon entering the ranks as a professional artist." Mr. Leitch's attendance on the Queen, at Windsor and Osborne as well as at Buckingham Palace, extended, with intervals of various length, over a period of twenty-two years, for in 1863 we read of his being at Balmoral; and it need scarcely be said that he became teacher to the royal children, and later to the Princess of Wales, till the demands of the higher practice of his art obliged him to discontinue giving lessons.

Queen Victoria had been looking forward to an autumn visit to the King and Queen of the Belgians at Brussels, where she and the Prince were also to meet some members of the French royal family, but the calamity which had bereaved them of the Duke of Orleans of course made this impracticable, and arrangements were made for a brief tour in Scotland.

Many serious disturbances continued in the manufacturing districts, and they had extended to Glasgow, where unemployed operatives had made threatening demonstrations on the streets, but these disorders had no such political significance as to dismay the Queen. She had good reason for believing that no inimical feeling towards herself was associated with them, and assuredly there was no more reason for distrust in Scotland than in England. If such a suspicion could have existed for a moment it would have been dissipated by the earnest intensity and

fervour of the loyal welcome which awaited her and found exuberant expression the moment she and her royal consort appeared among the Scottish people.

The Queen, in her *Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands*, which has been published in a popular form, has graphically described her own impressions during this first visit to Scotland. These "leaves" and those which refer to subsequent journeys make only a small volume, but it is so full of examples of the frankness and simplicity of disposition, the faculty of being pleased with the intelligent observation of anything that has true human interest, and the kindly good-will for small services and civilities, which characterized the writer, that in it she seems to be speaking confidentially. As Mr. Arthur Helps says in the preface which he wrote: "The book is mainly confined to the natural expressions of a mind rejoicing in the beauties of nature, and throwing itself, with a delight rendered keener by the rarity of its opportunities, into the enjoyment of a life removed for the moment from the pressure of public cares."

Before daylight on the morning of the 29th of August (1842) the Queen and Prince Albert prepared to set out from Windsor. The weather was inclement, and breakfast had been partaken of under the strange conditions of its appearing to be served at night; but the travellers looked forward to their voyage with keen interest in "a thorough change," not unassociated with a possible spice of adventure. The princess royal and her infant brother had been left under the care of the Dowager Lady Lyttelton, their preceptress. The ladies and gentlemen in attendance were the Duchess of Norfolk, the Hon. Matilda Paget, Major-general Wemyss, equerry to the Queen, Colonel Bouverie, equerry to Prince Albert, Mr. George Edward Anson, the Prince's secretary, and Sir James Clark, her Majesty's

physician. The lord-steward (the Earl of Liverpool) had already started from Slough by a special train as early as three o'clock.

In thinking of this first visit paid by Victoria to Scotland the first and most remarkable feature that presents itself to the mind is the extraordinary change that has come to pass in the manner of making the journey. To-day we read of the Queen starting from the Isle of Wight in the forenoon, comfortably reaching Perth to breakfast on the following morning, and dining the same evening in her own castle at Balmoral, having with her suite made the journey in sumptuously-fitted saloon carriages over lines of railway which can be brought into conjunction without inconvenience or delay. On her first excursion the railway journey of the Queen, Prince Albert, and the suite was to Paddington, whence carriages conveyed them by Vauxhall Bridge to Woolwich amidst the loyal but scattered cheers of the few early risers who were in the streets. In the smaller chronicles of the time it was recorded that the Queen was attired in a blue silk dress, a white silk bonnet, and a Paisley shawl; and Prince Albert in military cloak and travelling cap.

At Woolwich there was a great reception of the royal party by naval and military officers, the cadets occupying a platform with the ladies of the principal officers. Marines and troops were ready to take up their stations on the route to the stairs where her Majesty was to embark on the admiralty barge, to be rowed to the royal yacht, the *Royal George*, on board which Captain and Commodore Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence was in command and awaiting her Majesty at the companion-ladder by which she was to reach the deck.

The chief officers of the household and lords in waiting had

arrived, and there also was the Duke of Cambridge in field-marshall's uniform. He had driven to Woolwich in a carriage and four to say "good-bye and a happy voyage" to his niece, who kissed him with sincere affection in returning his kindly greetings.

Along a course marked on either hand by men-of-war boats the royal barge, steered by Sir Francis Collier, conveyed the Queen and her Consort to the royal yacht amidst the cheers of crowds of people on shore and numbers who occupied the various craft, all of which were flying their gayest bunting. Six steam vessels formed the royal squadron and on board two of these her Majesty's suite was to embark. Directly the Queen reached the deck of the royal yacht the vessel was taken in tow by a steamer to a point opposite the arsenal, and—amidst the firing of artillery, the shouts and cheering of the assembled crowd and the seamen who manned the yards of every vessel in sight, while the troops of the arsenal lined the side of the river and presented arms—the *Royal George* with the squadron following, each ship in order of seniority of their commanders, made for Gravesend. The *Lightning* steamer went on in front, followed by the tow vessels, and the Waterman's Company's steamer and an above-bridge boat named the *Matrimony* brought up the rear as volunteers with crews whose loyalty was a little officious not to say troublesome, a quality which was soon still more conspicuous on the part of other river steamers carrying passengers, who followed the royal yacht rather too closely when nearing the mouth of the Medway.

At Gravesend and at Tilbury the extent of the green shores, the expanse of water, and the crowds of pleasure-boats and yachts decorated with flags and streamers had been so cheerful and attractive that the Queen and the Prince had seats brought

from the cabin, and her Majesty remained on deck for a long time at each place, acknowledging the cheers and salutes of the people on board the various craft, the sounds of shouting and the national anthem mingling strangely with that of church bells being rung on shore, and the booming of the guns of the fort.

At the Nore the scene was extremely imposing, for there, with a smooth sea but a fresh breeze, the various little vessels danced gaily in the now brightening sunshine as the royal flotilla swept on; and at the mouth of the Medway, from the forts at Sheerness, the vast hulls of men-of-war, and the great guardship at a little distance, there was a series of signalling. The flagship *Camperdown* and two smaller vessels of war towered on high and loomed large with yards manned, every rope and spar in its place, and flags and pennants standing out in the brisk breeze. The ports of the huge hulls flashed flame, and the thunder of their saluting guns shook air and sea; a responsive low roar coming from the distant guardship, and then the clamours of cheering, the sound of a multitude shouting and waving hats, flags, and handkerchiefs.

Thus the *Royal George*, with Queen and Prince on the deck, passed the Nore before noon, and as the afternoon wore on, steamers from different parts of the coast came out, and at sight of the Sovereign and the Prince those on board burst into rounds of cheering and received the royal bow and smile, or a gracious wave of the hand, and so departed. Past the Maplin Light and Walton-on-the-Naze, and so by the low, flat Essex shore to Harwich, where there were more steamers with bands of music, and the mayor and corporation of the old seaport town on board, and a line of revenue cruisers with ladies and children on deck fluttering white handkerchiefs, and then by Aldborough, whence other steamers and yawls came

out to give a passing cheer that continued till it was lost in the distance, and the autumn sunlight faded on the sea as the royal recipients of so much loyalty went below, the vessel ploughing onward towards the lights of Lowestoft, and passing at midnight round the eastern end of England by the back of Yarmouth Sands—a blue port-fire or a rocket showing now and then the position of the squadron.

The morning dawned brightly before Cromer came in sight, and after breakfast the Queen ordered a message to be signalled to the other vessels, saying that she and the Prince were perfectly well, and inquiring after the ladies who were on board the *Black Eagle* and the gentlemen on board the *Rhadamanthus*. The replies reported "all well," with the addition in the latter case, "and the lord high-steward eating voraciously." As the second evening drew on, the weather changed, the wind was adverse, and during the night the straining of the towing-steamers, as they pitched and tossed, greatly increased the motion of the royal yacht. Scarborough was passed, but the progress was very slow, much to the distress of the Queen, who, though usually a good sailor, was now very unwell, and could not remain on deck in the evening. Matters improved in the morning, when, at about eight o'clock, the squadron stood in towards land, within a good view of Tynemouth with its ruined castle and priory, and thence kept a course not far from the coast, where the people of the fishing villages were eagerly on the look-out. After leaving Dunstanborough the squadron went on a rapid tide through the narrow passage between the Farn or Ferne Islands and the main, with Bamborough Castle on the left, 150 feet above the sea. From her cabin the Queen saw the Ferne Islands and the outer rocks with the third of the lighthouses—Grace Darling's lighthouse; but it was not then

known to her that the heroine herself just then lay dying. Rocky Islands and the famous Lindisfarne or Holy Island were passed on the Northumbrian coast, and at half-past five in the evening the Queen was able to go on deck and lie down on the sofa which had been placed there, that she might see the approaching coast of Scotland, contrasting with that of England by its wild, dark, and rocky aspect. St. Abb's Head was passed at half-past six, and numbers of fishing-boats, in one of which a piper was "discoursing sweet music," went out to meet the royal yacht; while two steamers also appeared, their decks filled with well-dressed passengers who had come to see the Queen on Britain's native element. One of these vessels, a large steamer called the *Monarch*, was cleverly steered in a direction that brought her at a respectful but not a long distance off the royal yacht, and a salute was fired, after which she rounded again, and the Queen and Prince, now standing on deck, could hear the music of a band and see that some people on board were dancing a reel. Her Majesty had risen to acknowledge the repeated acclamations and sustained bursts of cheering that resounded on all sides; and she was now so much better that, the sounds of music on the steamer having suggested it, the crew of the royal yacht had permission to dance. A sailor boy who could play the fiddle at once tuned up, and the tars began to foot it in true nautical style, one of them dancing a hornpipe with a vehement and untiring agility which ended in a race between the musician and the dancer, in which toes beat fingers, as the violinist had at last to wind up with a final chord. Then followed a fo'c'sle concert, the men joining in "Hearts of Oak" and other good old sea songs and choruses, their deep voices harmonizing well with theplash of the waves and the surrounding scene; while their loyalty was manifested by the

intensity of energy and expression with which they performed the national anthem as a finale to their entertainment.

The Queen had been expected to arrive that morning, and all the arrangements had been made for her reception after landing at Granton Pier, and for a royal procession through Edinburgh, where the lord-provost and the council were to hand to her Majesty the keys of the city. Stands for spectators had been erected at various points, the lord-provost and his colleagues sat all day in readiness; the Royal Archers body-guard had mustered that they might take their traditional place beside the royal carriage, attired in their green tunics, and feathered caps, and with bows in hands and arrows in belts. Troops were at the castle drawn up in readiness to take position there and at various points in the city; members of learned societies and ancient institutions, with distinctive badges and insignia, were at their posts, school children were placed at the points where they were to greet the sovereign with songs and cheering; and the streets and heights, not only in the city, but by the landing-place at Granton, were filled with a patient and decorous crowd, numbers of whom had come from distant places or from Glasgow by the recently completed railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Conspicuous among the people were knots of fisherfolk, the women bravely dressed with new snow-white caps adorned with many-coloured ribbons, and with petticoats of yellow, blue, or scarlet. All was ready, everybody was on the tiptoe of expectation, and yet the Queen came not, nor could any sign of her approach be discerned by those who, standing on the heights, gazed wistfully out to sea. The day drew on and it became evident that the royal yacht and the attendant squadron would not reach their destination till too late in the evening for her Majesty to make a procession through the city. There was

much disappointment but no ill-humour on the part of the loyal people who had assembled in thousands to welcome the sovereign; and when the steamer *Lightning* having on board Prince Albert's *jäger* Benda, and the two dogs Eos and Cairnach, arrived at Leith as avant-courier to say that the weather at sea had retarded the voyage and that the Queen could not arrive till the following morning, there was nothing for it but to wait patiently and make the best possible arrangements for the morrow. But there was still one grand demonstration of welcome to be made when it was known that the squadron was approaching and was in the Forth at nightfall.

The Queen and the Prince remained on deck till late in the evening, and the spectacle was worth staying for. Lanterns were hoisted at different points of the yacht's masts, and blue lights and rockets were discharged, so that the people on shore could see them as signals, and as the darkness came down upon the rugged coast and hid it from view the squadron neared Dunbar, which had already been brilliantly illuminated; two guns mounted on the old castle fired a salute, which was answered by flights of rockets from the squadron, while from the beacon heights for fifty miles round blazed great bonfires, those that were nearest lighting with a ruddy glare the waters of the firth. Largest of all flamed a mighty mound built upon the head of the lion-shaped mass of Arthur's Seat above the Scottish capital—a mound 40 feet in diameter at its base, and composed of 25 tons of coal, 40 cart-loads of wood, 180 barrels of tar, besides barrels of turpentine and rosin, with quantities of tarred rope and canvas. This enormous bonfire could be seen from afar, looking like the outbursts of a volcano as the flames shot upward or curled hither and thither on the wind, and the great column of smoke that arose above the pile took changing hues

from the fiery mass. Even at distant places the beacon fires flared, and the people at Fort William, away in Inverness-shire, had earned a title to loyalty by laboriously, but cheerfully, carrying an enormous quantity of fuel and numerous tar barrels to the summit of Ben Nevis, whence the red glare was reflected on the tops of surrounding mountains. The spectacle of the great bonfire on the height and of the splendid illumination of the city was sufficient to keep numbers of people out all night in Edinburgh, and, indeed, so great was the concourse of persons who had come from all parts of the country that many must have been unable to obtain sleeping accommodation.

At a quarter to one in the morning the royal yacht anchored at Inchkeith, and at Granton pier the Duke of Buccleuch, who was to receive her Majesty as his guest at Dalkeith House, kept careful watch and made every preparation for her landing, having ordered couriers to convey to him the intelligence of the first appearance of the squadron.

The good people at Edinburgh had not given their Queen credit for a habit of early rising which she usually observed when away from the more artificial life of the court and its nightly entertainments. At seven o'clock in the morning the Queen and the Prince were on deck and ready for breakfast. On one side of the royal yacht was Leith and the hills towering above the mist that obscured Edinburgh, on the other side was to be seen the distant Isle of May, and in the rear the Bass Rock. As the mist lifted, the grand panorama was unfolded to view, and the royal visitors, to whom all was new, displayed great interest in the various features that were most conspicuous in the scene. But who could have expected that her Majesty would be ready to disembark and to land at Granton pier a few minutes after eight! The Duke of Buccleuch,

who had made all arrangements for the royal reception, was at Granton all night, and at three in the morning was joined there by Sir Robert Peel, who had preceded the Queen to Scotland. At five o'clock the duke had had an interview with Bailie Richardson and with Sir Niel Douglas, commander of the forces; despatches had been sent off to the public authorities at Edinburgh, for Sir James Forrest, Bart., the lord-provost, and the council were waiting robed and ready in the council-room, where it was said some of the officials had passed the night. Two guns were to be fired at the castle and a flag was to be hoisted as a signal of her Majesty's approach; but in the council and in the city some misconception arose, and the signal that was originally supposed to indicate the arrival of the royal yacht at the mouth of the firth now meant that the Queen was actually on *terra firma*. Who could have foreseen that not very long after the interviews at Granton with the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Liverpool and the suite actually came on shore with the message that the Queen would land in the course of an hour or so! It was only ten minutes past eight when the royal yacht arrived at Granton pier, and the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir Robert Peel, and others went on board. The Queen and the Prince then crossed the gangway to the pier, where the suite had already assembled and the royal carriages were waiting. Her Majesty and Prince Albert entered an open barouche, the ladies and gentlemen following, and the duke, the equerries, and Mr. Anson riding.

The crowd at Granton was tremendous, and as the royal party moved onward it was evident to people in front that others were coming down from Edinburgh, intending to wait for the arrival of the Queen. There were already a few messengers who were running far in advance of the royal

carriage in an endeavour to carry the tidings of her arrival to the city; and as they saw the coming crowd they could only wave their hands and shout "The Queen! the Queen!" In a few moments, however, the scarlet uniforms of the guards escort were seen coming up the road, and numbers among the multitude thereupon turned and began to scamper back in the expectation of arriving at some better position in Edinburgh, or of reaching the barrier, formed by a line of palisades and a gate at the entrance to the city at the head of Brandon Street, where it was understood that the lord-provost and the council would deliver up the keys. This ceremony was not performed, for the simple reason that it was not till the Queen had already passed through a part of the city that the startling intelligence of her arrival reached the civic dignitaries in their council chamber, who thereupon made a rush for their carriages and began a race pell-mell in the endeavour by short cuts and by-ways to get beyond the royal procession, or to join it at some point where they could place themselves in evidence. This was only effected by a few, including the lord-provost, who, however, could do no more than await her Majesty as she emerged from the city and was on her way to Dalkeith.

•The Royal Archers had contrived to assemble in haste near the Canonmills Bridge, and there endeavoured to fall in on either side of the Queen's carriage according to their privilege and duty, but encountered some serious opposition from the dragoons of the escort, who were ignorant of the fact that these men in green with the caps and plumes, who persisted in breaking through that they might walk near the Queen, were Scottish noblemen, who gallantly persisted and kept their places even when the cortege went at a pace which must have been very trying, and who, by dint of physical strength no less than by

moral and social influence, bore back the fervid crowd that surged on either side the royal carriage, and placed both it and themselves in danger. On the Queen's side were the Duke of Roxburgh, and Lord Elcho, who was at that time not personally known to her Majesty, and who pointed out to her the various buildings and objects of interest and answered the inquiries which she continued to put to him. Sir John Hope was on Prince Albert's side of the carriage, and the Prince thanked them all heartily, for he was really somewhat alarmed lest the multitude should press completely on to the royal equipage. The Queen, however, was, if we may be permitted to say so, in her element; she understood and thoroughly appreciated the popular enthusiasm, and could enjoy the "humours" of the scene as well as the magnificent spectacle presented by the modern Athens, occupied at every point of vantage by a vast assembly of eager and animated people.

Readers of the Queen's brief account of what may be called her first triumphal entry into Edinburgh will note with what observant eyes her Majesty regarded surrounding objects, and the differences and peculiarities among the people, even at the time that she was in the midst of an excited and demonstrative crowd, whose almost frantic greetings she had to return with good-humoured self-possession. The stone cottages and stone walls of the suburb beyond Edinburgh engaged her attention no less than the imposing aspect of Princes Street and the magnificent buildings of which Arthur's Seat is the background; and the peculiar aspect of the old women in their close caps or *mutches*, the bare-footed girls and children with loose and flowing hair, the quaint picturesqueness of the fisherfolk, all attracted her notice, and at later stages of the Scotch tour a few words in her journal indicate a remarkable power of indivi-

dualizing every person she saw, and by simple comparison or illustration of fixing not on her own memory alone, but on the imagination of others, her impressions of people, scenery, and natural objects. It may be mentioned too that during this brief journey in Scotland the loyalty shown to the royal guests by the noblemen who received them was not officious or oppressive. Magnificent hospitality accompanied with some appropriate display of Highland customs and the presence of numerous picturesque retainers did not prevent the Queen and Prince Albert from having time at their disposal for quiet drives or walks amidst delightful scenery and free from harassing ceremonious attentions, and these restful intervals were relieved by festivities in which the royal visitors could participate not only as guests, but as amused spectators.

The progress from Granton through Edinburgh was quickly accomplished, and after a passing glance at Craigmillar Castle Dalkeith was reached at eleven o'clock. At the door of the fine triple-fronted mansion of reddish stone the Duchess of Buccleuch arrived immediately after her royal guests. They had alighted, tired and giddy, and were glad to enjoy two or three hours of repose after the morning's excitement,—and a quiet drive in the extensive and beautiful park, with its views of Arthur's Seat and the Pentland Hills, before the large dinner-party at eight o'clock. On the following day, after breakfast, at which the Queen tasted the oatmeal porridge and pronounced it to be very good, and some "finnan haddies," on which she has recorded no expression of opinion, there was a pleasant walk by the Esk, followed by a drive through Dalkeith amidst a crowd of people running and cheering, and a return home through a Scotch mist by way of Lasswade and Lord Melville's Park. The next day (Saturday, September 3d) was to be chiefly

devoted to a more complete state procession through Edinburgh, to which the Queen had consented in order to compensate the loyal people who had been disappointed because of the previous misunderstanding as to the hour of her Majesty's arrival at Granton pier. Accordingly, at ten o'clock the royal procession was formed for entering the Scottish capital from the other side by Arthur's Seat, where a vast crowd had already assembled, and the Royal Archer guard, consisting entirely of noblemen and gentlemen, was in readiness to form a walking escort, with the same arduous duties to perform in resisting the pressure of the crowd around the royal carriage, which at some parts became so really serious that the Queen herself was alarmed for the safety of her loyal body-guard, who, however, proved their privilege right manfully.

Past Holyrood Chapel and Palace, which the Queen did not visit on this occasion, as there had been some severe cases of fever in the immediate vicinity, the procession passed through the old town and into the High Street, the aspect of which was most striking, the windows of the towering houses on either side of the broad thoroughfare being crammed with loyal sight-seers, some of whose excited gestures made each vast building appear to be alive from roof to basement; while the thunderous roar of thousands of voices was so exceedingly impressive that the whole demonstration astonished the Queen. At the barrier the lord-provost and the council were all ready to present the keys and a loyal address, to which the Queen replied to the effect that she knew she could do no better than return the said keys to the faithful and loyal gentlemen in whose hands they would remain in safe-keeping. The girls of the Orphan Asylum and the representatives of the guilds in traditional attire occupied platforms close by, and various societies with their insignia, including the

Celtic Society, the members of which were in costume and saluted the sovereign in ancient style with their claymores, gave life and colour to the scene. At the castle the Queen alighted, and with the Prince walked up the steep ascent, though the way had been laid with tan to enable carriages to be driven. Having examined all the interesting objects there, including the ancient and curious regalia of Scotland, and having stayed for a short time in the very small room where James the Sixth of Scotland and First of England was born, and on the wall of which is inscribed a strange prayer for the child that was about to be ushered into the world, the Queen and Prince enjoyed for a few minutes the extensive views from the batteries, and, amidst the strains of military bands, re-entered their carriage and completed their royal progress, the members of council rejoining the procession and the Royal Archer guard resuming their duties. One accident of a serious kind occurred during the day, caused by the endeavour of a number of people to take possession of seats on a platform where no places were provided for them, and for accommodation on which, those occupying it had previously paid. The platform gave way, and two persons were killed and several more or less seriously injured.

The Queen and the royal party drove on to Dalmeny, the beautiful house and park of Lord Rosebery, where they arrived to luncheon at two o'clock, and at six returned to Dalkeith through Leith, which, her Majesty declares, is not a pretty town, though the view of Edinburgh from the road before you enter it is "enchanting, and what you would only imagine as a thing to dream of or to see in a picture."

The next day (Sunday) was passed quietly, a private walk occupying part of the morning, and a drive by the romantic borders of the Esk to Lord Lothian's at Newbattle, and to

Dalhousie, the evening. At noon, divine service was conducted in the house by Mr. Ramsay (afterwards Dean Ramsay, so well known by his anecdotes of Scottish life), of St. John's Episcopal Church; and this gave rise to some discussion in the newspapers on the part of people who seemed to think that the Queen should have attended the parish church of Scotland, as Sir Robert Peel, the Earl of Liverpool, and the Earl of Aberdeen did. On the Monday there was a great "drawing-room" at Dalkeith House, in the gallery, and the presentations were very numerous. Before the assembly the Queen and Prince Albert received addresses from the Scottish universities, from the lord-provost and magistrates of Edinburgh, and from the Scotch Church. In replying to the latter, her Majesty said: "I acknowledge with gratitude the inestimable advantages which have been derived from the ministrations of the Church of Scotland. They have contributed in an eminent degree to form the character of a loyal and religious people."

On the Tuesday began what proved to be a truly delightful journey, arrangements for which were so excellently made that the royal travellers were able to take a late luncheon at Lord Kinnoull's house at Dupplin, where a battalion of Highlanders was drawn up, and there the Queen received addresses from the chief inhabitants of the county and from the provost and magistrates of Perth, where they arrived the same afternoon, to find the town decked with triumphal arches, an immense and enthusiastic crowd in the streets, and the magistrates waiting to give up the keys to the Queen and to present the Prince with the freedom of the city. The royal party then went on to Scone, to the house of Lord Mansfield, who, with the dowager Lady Mansfield, was standing at the door to welcome them. The next day's journey was through the lovely scenery to

DALMENY

Dalmeny Park, a few miles west of Edinburgh, extending along the southern shore of the Firth of Forth, is the seat of the Earl of Rosebery, one of the Liberal premiers of the late Queen Victoria. Dalmeny House is entirely a modern building, but within the grounds is Barnbougle Castle, an ancient possession of the Moubrays, which was reconstructed in 1880. The estate came into the possession of the present family in 1662, but the earldom dates only from 1703. Queen Victoria visited Dalmeny on two occasions, namely in 1842 and 1877.



DALMENY

THE RESIDENCE OF THE EARL OF ROSEBERY

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY VALENTINE & SONS, DUNDEE

Dunkeld, where there was a grand reception by Lord Glenlyon's Highlanders, who were encamped there. Several of the nobility of Scotland were among the guests at the luncheon provided in a tent, with the pipes playing and the sword-dance and the reel being performed for the amusement of the Queen, who, however, was much distressed by the knowledge that Lord Glenlyon, who received her, had recently and suddenly become blind and was led about by his wife. Escorted by the Highland guard, the royal carriages then left for Taymouth, where Lord Breadalbane was prepared to entertain his Sovereign in princely style in his magnificent new abode, a house which the Queen describes as a kind of castle built of granite.

Amidst the glorious wooded hills the scene presented by the Queen's reception was indescribable. Highlanders in the Campbell tartan, with a few of the Menzies men in red and white, and Lord Breadalbane himself in Highland dress, were drawn up in front of the house. The pipers were playing at full blast, guns were firing, the crowd was cheering vociferously. "It seemed," says the Queen, "as if a great chieftain in olden feudal times was receiving his sovereign. It was princely and romantic. Lord and Lady Breadalbane took us up stairs, the hall and stairs being lined with Highlanders. The Gothic staircase is of stone and very fine; the whole house is newly and exquisitely furnished. The drawing-room especially is splendid." At eight o'clock dinner was served to a distinguished party assembled in honour of the Queen and the Prince. The dining-room—a fine Gothic room—and the royal apartments had never previously been occupied. In the evening the grounds were splendidly illuminated, and bonfires gleamed on the surrounding hills; reels and other dances performed to the music of the pipes by torch-light in front of the house brought the entertainment to a close.

During their stay till the Saturday the Queen and the Prince made several delightful excursions and walked a good deal; and the Prince had all the pleasures of deer-stalking, in which he proved himself to be a very good shot and displayed remarkable activity. There was also a battue for his especial benefit, but probably less to his liking, in which he did considerable execution, and a rather imposing quantity of game fell to his gun. Altogether the stay at Taymouth was full of enjoyment, and the row of 16 miles up Loch Tay to Auchmore, the magnificent scenery on both sides, the Gaelic songs of the boatmen, the mellowed skirr of the pipes played by two pipers in the bow of the boat which carried the Queen and Prince Albert, Lord Breadalbane, the Duchess of Buccleuch, and the Duchess of Norfolk, made an experience never to be forgotten. Then came a continuation of the tour, through wilder country by Glen Ogle to Lochearnhead, where horses were changed and Lord Breadalbane, who had accompanied the royal party to that distance, said farewell as they went onward toward Crieff and thence to Drummond Castle, where Lord and Lady Willoughby were waiting to receive them.

Here they stayed till the following Tuesday morning. There were walks in the fine terraced garden, and on Monday pleasant excursions, more deer-stalking, agreeable company at dinner, and a dance in the evening. On the Tuesday, September 13th, an early start was made on the return journey (sixty-five miles), and Dalkeith was reached at half-past five in the evening. The whole tour had been performed with admirable punctuality and with considerable rapidity with the smallest possible appearance of hurry, and only once had a few minutes' delay occurred. As many as 656 horses had been employed in conveying her Majesty and the suite. The Queen was much fatigued, and the

following day was chiefly devoted to strolls in the park or garden, and to rest and a drive to Rosslyn and Hawthornden.

At eight o'clock on the morning of Thursday the Queen and the Prince again passed through Edinburgh, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and other noblemen and ladies. They reached the pier at Granton amidst an orderly but strikingly loyal assembly in the streets, and having expressed hearty thanks to their entertainers of Dalkeith, and taken leave of those who had attended them to the pier, embarked on board the large and commodious steam-ship *Trident* for the homeward voyage, arriving at the Nore at three o'clock on the morning of Saturday the 17th of September, and at Windsor Castle at half-past twelve.

The enthusiasm of the multitude assembled to see the Queen embark had been the more genuine for a touch of sorrow in parting with the sovereign; and the presence of numbers of fishing boats, occupied by the women whose picturesque dresses and bright healthy faces had so often been noticed by the Queen, gave a picturesque effect to the scene, as they joined in singing a song of loyal admiration, composed for the occasion by some local poet.

The journey had been not only memorable but full of unalloyed pleasure, and the change of scene, daily exercise, and pure mountain air had greatly benefited both the Queen and Prince Albert. A letter addressed by Lord Aberdeen to the lord-advocate said, "The Queen will leave Scotland with a feeling of regret that her visit on the present occasion could not be further prolonged. Her Majesty fully expected to witness the loyalty and attachment of her Scottish subjects; but the devotion and enthusiasm evinced in every quarter, and by all ranks, have produced an impression on the mind of her

Majesty, which can never be effaced." Doubtless the Queen's enjoyment of the romantic scenery, the customs, and character of the people, and the boundless hospitality of her reception, was enhanced by the knowledge that her husband was no less delighted with the holiday. "The country is full of beauty, of a severe and grand character," he wrote to the Duchess of Saxe-Gotha; "perfect for sport of all kinds, and the air remarkably pure and light in comparison with what we have here. The people are more natural, and marked by that honesty and sympathy which always distinguish the inhabitants of mountainous countries who live far away from towns. There is, moreover, no country where historical traditions are preserved with such fidelity or to the same extent. Every spot is connected with some interesting historical fact, and with most of these Sir Walter Scott's accurate descriptions have made us familiar."

After resuming for a short time their ordinary domestic life at Windsor, the Queen and Prince Albert accepted the invitation of the Duke of Wellington, who had placed Walmer Castle at their disposal, and on the 10th of November they took up their residence there for three weeks, during which they went for many pleasant walks and drives in the neighbourhood. It was here that the Queen received the happy intelligence that some of the causes of recent anxiety had been removed. The Afghan war was at an end. It could not be said that any good had been effected or advantage gained by the mistaken occupation of Cabul. The conditions that existed before our interference and the destruction of our army of occupation, were resumed; but British arms had again been triumphant, and, to use the phrase common on such occasions, British honour had been vindicated. Lord Ellenborough, a man of eminent

ability, but distinguished by a singularly inflated style of oratory and by florid proclamations which he doubtless devised to have much effect on the populations of India, had succeeded Lord Auckland as governor-general; but before the close of his administration the latter had appointed General Pollock to command an expeditionary army which was to punish the Afghans and retrieve recent disasters by forcing the Khyber Pass and relieving General Sale at Jellalabad. Pollock had been a distinguished officer in the East India Company's service and had fought under Lake and Wellington, and after many difficulties he organized a force of troops by the help of reinforcements and advanced from Peshawur,—forcing the pass by adopting the tactics of the Afghans,—and reached Jellalabad, where Sale's brigade had for five months desperately held a position against repeated attacks of the enemy. The meeting of the besieged force and the relieving army was "a sight worth seeing;" and as Lord Ellenborough had but recently arrived in India and did not clearly know what to do—as Shah Sujah had been murdered and Dost Mohammed was awaiting events—the military commanders, Outram, Pollock, and Nott, had to decide on action, and agreed to a forward movement, to which the governor-general consented. General Nott having been relieved at Candahar was to make his way back to India proper by way of Ghuznee and Cabul; while General Pollock with about 8000 men started from Jellalabad for the Khoord Cabul Pass, which he forced in the same way as at the Khyber. Akbar Khan then brought 16,000 men to oppose the further advance, but Sale, leading the first column of the British force, a battle was fought almost hand to hand, and the Afghan army was routed. Akbar fled, and our army marched to Cabul, which, with Ghuznee, where General Nott's force arrived a day or two afterwards, was to a great

extent destroyed, the citadel at Cabul as well as considerable portions of the ancient city being blown up, while from Ghuznee the "great gates of the temple of Somnauth"—those sandal-wood gates which had been carried off by the sultan Mahmoud eight hundred years before and had formed the entrance to his tomb—were, by command of Lord Ellenborough, conveyed back to India, an event which, added to his florid proclamation of the event to the people of Hindustan, was held to have been injudicious and inexpedient as tending to arouse hatred and to offend the Mahometans. The recapture of the Afghan capital had a great effect on the tribes, but the hostages—all the women and others to whom Akbar Khan had promised a safe-conduct—were still prisoners, and had to be released. Akbar had sent them off from Cabul under the charge of an emissary named Saleh Mohammed, who had been told to convey them to Turkestan and sell them as slaves; but Laurence and Pottinger, who were with them, offered him a larger bribe for their freedom than he would have received for carrying out his orders. Elphinstone had died, and, after having suffered months of privation and terror, Lady Sale and most of her companions in captivity entered the camp of her husband the general, wan and weak and still suffering, but cheered by the wild cheers of welcome and the salute of the guns. Lady Sale brought with her Mrs. Sturt, her widowed daughter, and the infant to which that lady had given birth during the captivity, and this aroused to a still greater pitch the enthusiasm of the men. It is easy to understand how greatly the Queen was affected when, after the arrival of Lady Sale in England, she went to visit her sovereign and narrated the story of Cabul, the Khyber Pass, and the war in Afghanistan.

Peace had been concluded with China, as we have seen, and

WALMER CASTLE

Before the formation of a regular navy the kingdom relied for its defence mainly on the men of the coast towns. The five ports, Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Hastings, were constituted by Edward the Confessor a separate corporation, called the Cinque Ports, with duties of this kind to perform in return for certain privileges. William the Conqueror confirmed and extended their jurisdiction, and Edward I granted a new charter to the ports, now seven in number since the addition of Winchelsea and Rye. With the growth of a regular navy their importance declined, and most of their privileges were abolished by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835. Some of their ancient courts still meet occasionally, and their Lord Warden has still some authority within their jurisdiction. Walmer is a suburb of Deal, and has long been attached to the port of Sandwich as a "member". Walmer Castle, the official residence of the Lord Warden, was originally built in the time of Henry VIII. It was a favourite residence of the Duke of Wellington, when Lord Warden, from 1829 till his death, which took place in the castle in 1852. Queen Victoria visited the Duke here in 1842. In 1892 Mr F. Smith, a son of the late Right Hon. W. H. Smith, presented articles belonging to William Pitt and the Duke of Wellington as Lords Warden to pass as heirlooms with Walmer Castle.



WALMER CASTLE

THE RESIDENCE OF THE LORD WARDEN OF THE CINQUE PORTS

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY FR TH

the terms included not only the large indemnity, of which a humorous song of the period said that the Chinese would "tax our tea to pay it," but also a favourable tariff and an open trade with five of the principal Chinese ports.

All this good news reached the Queen at Walmer on the 23d of November, and with a generous desire to mark her sense, and the sense of the country, of the value of the services performed by those chiefly concerned, letters patent were immediately issued, by which distinctions were conferred on some of the officers, while directions were given in which her Majesty expressed her wish that Chinese and Afghan medals should be at once struck and distributed. It transpired, however, that the grandiose Lord Ellenborough had already, without instructions and on his own responsibility, issued medals to the army in India, so that only the Chinese decoration could be issued by the Queen.

The year 1843 may be said to have opened with a tragic occurrence which had a great effect not only on the Queen and Prince Albert but on persons of all ranks, since it was inevitably associated with that intense excitement which at the time pervaded the country in relation to stagnation of commerce and to that public distress which formed the chief argument for those who urged repeal of the taxes which increased the cost of necessaries of life. On the 20th of January, Mr. Drummond, the secretary of Sir Robert Peel, was shot while entering the official residence of the prime-minister, and died shortly afterwards. The evidence showed without doubt that the assassin, whose name was Daniel M'Naughten, intended the fatal bullet for Sir Robert Peel himself. He was committed for trial for wilful murder, and the jury found a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity, a conclusion which can seldom be deemed satisfactory

though it may enable a jury to escape from a difficulty. The Queen had for some time before seen the inconsequent effect of these verdicts, and in writing to her uncle in reference to Mr. Drummond's murder had said: "I trust it will have the beneficial effect of making people feel the difference between complete madness, which deprives a man of *all* sense, and madness which does *not* prevent a man from knowing right from wrong."

Prince Albert was much concerned at the intended attempt on the life of the premier, for whom he entertained a very true regard because of his sincerity and independence of purpose. The Prince was himself now greatly occupied in politics, and his undoubted ability as an adviser of the Queen was encouraged by the complete confidence which ministers and, indeed, leaders on both sides placed in his judgment and integrity. It was even at this time within the contemplation of the ministry to offer to appoint him to be commander-in-chief in the event of the death of the Duke of Wellington; but he strongly discouraged any such proposal, on much the same ground as that which he assumed at a later date (in 1850), when the Duke himself brought the matter forward, and found that the Prince was entirely opposed to it. We have seen what were his objections, and that they were thoroughly consistent with the course which he had prescribed for himself from the time of his betrothal to the Queen. Devotion to her and to the interests of the crown and the country of his adoption had been his guiding principle, and he would refuse any honour or advantage that he believed would interfere with it.

It is pretty certain that some of the very few who appeared to be inimical to him were people whose interests were affected by the scheme of reformation in the royal household to which he had now begun gradually to give effect.

He had reason to believe in the good feeling of the public, but the continued effort to avoid anything that could give occasion to misrepresentation must have operated in maintaining a certain reserve that may frequently have been mistaken for coldness and hauteur. No breath of scandal had reached him from any quarter where it would have been regarded as worth a moment's attention, and he was ready to sacrifice even that personal liberty claimed by every other English gentleman, that there might be no shadow of a foundation even for lying insinuations. He relinquished, or rather he never exercised, even the ordinary freedom which would have enabled him to visit various parts of the metropolis without being known, that he might watch the improvements that were being made, and become more immediately acquainted with the habits and manners of the people. "Wherever he went, whether in a carriage or on horseback, he was accompanied by his equerry. He paid no visits in general society. His visits were to the studio of the artist, to museums of art or science, to institutions for good and benevolent purposes. Wherever a visit from him, or his presence, could tend to advance the real good of the people, there his horses might be seen waiting; never at the door of mere fashion. Scandal itself could take no liberty with his name. He loved to ride through all the districts of London where building and improvements were in progress, more especially when they were such as would conduce to the health or recreation of the working-classes; and few, if any, knew so well or took such interest as he did in all that was being done, at any distance east, west, north, or south of the great city."¹ . . . "He would frequently return," the Queen says, "to luncheon at a great pace, and would always come through the Queen's

¹ *Life of the Prince Consort.*

dressing-room, where she generally was at that time, with that bright loving smile with which he ever greeted her; telling her where he had been—what new buildings he had seen—what studios, &c., he had visited."¹

The Queen had for the first time been unable personally to open parliament, which met on the 2d of February, 1843; and on the 25th of April the birth of another princess was the occasion of general congratulations. The baby princess was christened on the 2d of June, one of the sponsors being the King of Hanover, who was probably coming over for the marriage of the Princess Augusta, eldest daughter of the Duke of Cambridge, to the hereditary Grand-duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, which took place on the 28th. The Hanoverian sovereign arrived too late for the baptismal ceremony; and perhaps nobody regretted his absence. The other sponsors were Prince Ernest, the Princess Sophia Matilda, and the Princess Feodora, and the occasion was not only a brilliant, but an agreeable one, the babe receiving the names of Alice Maud Mary, the latter after her great-aunt, the Duchess of Gloucester, the two former because they were good old English names. By the first of these the memory of the princess has become enshrined in the hearts of the British people, to whom the "Princess Alice" was in after years to represent a tender and devoted daughter, wife, and mother, faithful and self-sacrificing even to death.

The mention of the King of Hanover as a wedding guest can scarcely be passed by without a reference to a renewed attempt to assert his prerogative, which led to an amusing incident. The marriage took place on the 28th of June in the new Chapel Royal at Buckingham Palace, in the presence of the Queen and Prince Albert and the King and Queen of the

¹ *Early Years of the Prince Consort.*

Belgians, as well as that of those members of the royal family who could attend. When the ceremony was completed and the signatures were to be placed on the register-book, the King of Hanover was evidently manœuvring so that he might sign next to the Queen and before Prince Albert; but her Majesty knew what he was about, and just as the archbishop handed her the pen she quietly slipped to the other side of the table, where the Prince was standing, and having written her name handed the pen to him that he might sign immediately after her.

Perhaps the Queen saw some intentional courtesy in the arrival of the King of Hanover too late for the christening, and as there was little abatement of his former inimical attitude, this may have increased the desire of her Majesty to give precedence at court to King Leopold. She consulted the Duke of Wellington how this was to be done, and the old warrior, stickler as he was for etiquette, at once solved the difficulty, even without reverting to the declaration that the Queen could do as she pleased. He told her Majesty that he supposed it should be settled as they had done at the Congress of Vienna. "How was that?" asked the Queen; "by the first arrival?" "No, madam," replied the Duke, "alphabetically; and then, you know, B comes before H." And that was the plan adopted, much to her Majesty's satisfaction. The presence of the man who had made little secret of his animosity towards both Prince Albert and Leopold, and had spared no slander in his correspondence about them, was doubtless in itself enough to spoil such festivity as he took part in; but the amenities of royal society were of course preserved, and it is pretty certain that age, if not reflection, had somewhat toned down his almost savage asperities. At any rate he had given a pretty fair government to the Hanoverians, and had faithfully observed the promises that he made when he succeeded

to the throne; so that in a sense he was liked and respected by his subjects. His son, the blind prince, had been married in February to the Princess Mary of Saxe-Altenburg, and the wedding had been a magnificent one, a number of sovereigns and princes, among whom was the King of Prussia, being present at the ceremony.

One face and figure long familiar to the people of London had been missed at the baptism of the Princess Alice and the marriage of the daughter of the Duke of Cambridge. The Duke of Sussex had died on the 21st of April at Kensington Palace, at a time when the Queen was unable to visit him, as it was but four days before the birth of the princess. He had been for some time in infirm health, and was seventy years old, but up to a few months before his death had continued to be associated with various useful public movements, and was greatly respected by a large circle of friends, and continued to be popular on account of his benevolent sentiments and his generally liberal opinions. His body lay in state at the palace on the 3d of May, and any person attired in decent mourning was admitted. It is said that 25,000 persons visited the mortuary chamber during the day, and on the following morning, contrary to the custom in previous cases, which had prescribed midnight as the time for interment, the funeral took place, the tomb being at Kensal Green Cemetery instead of at Windsor. The funeral procession was more than a mile in length, including a great number of mourning coaches, each drawn by six black horses, and above fifty private carriages, in one of which was Sir Augustus d'Este, the son of the duke and Lady d'Ameland (Lady Augusta Murray), whose early marriage with the duke we have already noticed. That lady, whose position had not been recognized, as it was contrary to the Royal Marriage Act,

had died many years before, and the Duke of Sussex had contracted a second morganatic marriage with Lady Cecilia Buggin, daughter of the second Earl of Arran and widow of Sir George Buggin. She was created Duchess of Inverness, and survived the duke thirty years. The chief mourner at the duke's funeral was the Duke of Cambridge; but it was attended at the cemetery by Prince George of Cambridge; by the Grand-duc of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, whose son was about to be married to the Princess Augusta of Cambridge; and by Prince Albert, who, it was said, seemed to be more affected than any person present.

When the Queen was able to resume her place at the court Prince Albert, whose increasing duties and the signs of over-work which could occasionally be observed in his appearance gave her Majesty and some of her friends much anxiety, entered with zest and spirit into the business of the Royal Commission of the Fine Arts. An exhibition of designs for cartoons for decorating the new palace of the legislature was held in Westminster Hall, and prizes had been offered for those which should most appropriately illustrate English history and poetry. As many as 140 cartoons were sent in for competition, the sizes varying from ten to fifteen feet, and the great popularity of the exhibition, the number of persons of the labouring class who thronged the hall, and the interest which was expressed, greatly encouraged the Prince, who regarded it as a proof that a taste for art might soon be developed among the people, and would be the means of elevating their character and habits and of giving a higher aim to manufactures that were associated with the arts of design. There was a sixpenny catalogue containing the quotations from history or poetry to which the pictures referred, and the Prince abridged it so that an edition could be sold for a penny; but

to his delight he found that a very large proportion, even of the poorest among "the million," preferred the book with the quotations, and it was to him a very gratifying sight to witness the attention and earnestness with which they followed the subjects with the books in their hands. He represented to the commission "that these catalogues in the hands of so many thousands would be the first introduction of many to an acquaintance with our best poets and writers."

The Prince was strongly of opinion that the decoration of the walls of the new buildings with fresco paintings, the subjects of which would instruct and delight those who would be attracted by them, would be far better than mere ornamentation, and after considerable discussion his view was adopted. At the same time, further to encourage the art of fresco painting, he commissioned eight of our principal artists to prepare a series of eight lunettes for the decoration of the pavilion in the garden of Buckingham Palace, and Landseer, Maclise, Uwins, Eastlake, Leslie, Sir W. Ross, Dyce, and Stanfield were employed for some time in the work, the Prince and the Queen finding simple and genuine pleasure in watching its progress by visiting the pavilion daily, and often before ten in the morning, and conversing with the artists. Sometimes the visit would be repeated, in the hour before dinner, after the duties of the day were over; and the royal children were frequently taken to see how the pictures in the summer-house were growing under the painters' hands.

Among the earnest efforts of Prince Albert at this time, in which the Queen took the strongest interest, was his endeavour to abolish duelling, a practice to which attention had been painfully directed by some instances which had aroused public feeling. The Prince had a notion that in the army and navy "affairs of honour" might be settled by being referred to courts of honour,

and he applied to the Duke of Wellington to become the head of such a tribunal; but the duke was not convinced of the efficacy of the proposed remedy, though he agreed to inquire into the operation of similar arbitrments in the Tribunal des Maréchaux in France and similar courts in the Bavarian army. Eventually the matter was taken into consideration by the cabinet, with the result, that though the establishment of courts of honour was thought to present too many practical difficulties, an amendment was made on the articles of war, which thereafter declared that it was "suitable to the character of honourable men to apologize and offer redress for wrong or insult committed, and equally so for the party aggrieved to accept frankly and cordially explanation and apologies for the same." The effect of this was very remarkable; and as at about the same time much ridicule was thrown upon the arbitration of the pistol by the circumstances attending duels between persons whose social position was thought to exclude them from the noble privilege of blowing each others' brains out, the "countercheck quarrelsome" really fell into something like contempt so far as the vindication of honour by sword or barrel was concerned.

The season had been a quiet one, trade and industry had improved, and the political suspicions which had slightly ruffled our relations with France having subsided, there was no obstacle to the fulfilment of the long-cherished wish of the Queen to visit the royal family of France and make the personal acquaintance of the king, who had, when Duke of Orleans, been the intimate friend of her father and of King Leopold, and whose estimable queen and their sons and daughters could claim many ties of alliance and friendship with Prince Albert and herself.

The opportunity was favourable, for parliament was to be prorogued on the 27th of August. The French royal family

were at the king's Chateau d'Eu, near Tréport, only a few hours' sea-journey from Southampton, and Victoria's new steam yacht, the *Victoria and Albert*, had been launched from Pembroke dockyard on the day that the Princess Alice was born, and was now completely ready for the trip.

The day after parliament rose the Queen and Prince Albert embarked at Southampton, and it would appear that their intention to visit France was known even to the members of the cabinet only a very short time before they left London, and then there seems to have been some uncertainty on the subject, even the Duke of Wellington not having been consulted until it was thought desirable to ask him whether there would be any necessity to appoint a regency during the absence of the Queen. The duke sought for precedents, with the result that he thought such an appointment must be made; but the crown-lawyers thought otherwise. At first, however, the journey consisted of a couple of days' cruise about the Isle of Wight and along the coast of Devon, and when this was extended to Cherbourg the suspicion was confirmed that there was something of secrecy in the proposed visit, and that either it had a political design or that the crafty Louis Philippe had anticipated some objection on the part of the ministry because other sovereigns of Europe had not by personal attention completely acknowledged him as a legitimate sovereign. Undoubtedly the extreme delight and satisfaction expressed by the king to his guests, and the "*effusion*" with which he greeted them, gave some strength to the conclusion that the friendship of the Queen of England was of importance to him.

At all events, the visit, though it only lasted five days, was a very delightful one, and the Queen was received right royally, and yet with a simple and, one may say, a genuine exhibition

of the most friendly regard. But there was an efficient, if not a sufficient, reason for suspecting a political motive on the part of a man like Louis Philippe, who was in his way an accomplished and crafty diplomatist. Among the causes of constraint between the two countries was the known desire of the King of the French to marry one of his sons, the Duc de Montpensier, either to the Queen of Spain or to the Infanta, the queen's sister,—it scarcely seemed much to matter which. It had at one time been more than hinted that he had designed the young queen to marry the Duc d'Aumale, and the younger Infanta (a mere child) to marry Montpensier, so that, at all events, one of his sons should be sure of the Spanish dynasty; but it may be readily believed that other powers of Europe looked askance at any alliance of this kind between France and Spain, and that Lord Palmerston had for some time been keeping his eye on the attempt.

On the 2d of September, at six o'clock in the evening, the *Victoria and Albert* reached Tréport. Prince de Joinville, who had awaited the royal yacht at Cherbourg, where he had gone on board in the morning, was on the look-out for the royal barge, in which the king his father had put off from Tréport to welcome the royal visitors. The occasion was one which was likely to cause some emotion, and the Queen records that as the barge approached nearer and nearer she felt more and more agitated. With the king were Aumale, Montpensier, Augustus of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, first-cousin to the Queen and Prince Albert, and married to the Princess Clémentine of Orleans, M. Guizot the French minister, Lord Cowley our representative in France, and other ministers and officers. Louis Philippe was standing up in the boat, and appeared to be so impatient to express his gratification that he had to be restrained from

attempting to get out and make his way to the deck of the yacht before it was near enough to enable him to do so. He went up as quickly as possible, and with a kindly paternal embrace repeatedly expressed his delight at seeing the Queen, who was much affected by the evident sincerity of his pleasure. The Queen and the Prince, with the Earl of Aberdeen, our foreign minister, who had accompanied them, quickly embarked on the French royal barge, on which the standards of France and England floated side by side over the two sovereigns, as the crew, all dressed in white with red sashes and red ribbons round their hats, rowed to shore. It was a fine, and in some sense an impressive sight, as the setting sun threw a golden glow upon the scene. A crowd of people, a number of troops, the whole French court, and all the local authorities had assembled. The king led Queen Victoria up the steep stair of the landing-place, where she was received by the Queen of the French with much emotion and repeated maternal embraces, and by her dear friend Louise, Queen of the Belgians, the widowed Hélène, Duchess of Orleans, who appeared in deep mourning, the Princess de Joinville, and Madame Adelaide, the sister of Louis Philippe, who was a personage of no little historical note, and who was consulted about all domestic matters of importance. The welcome was almost overwhelming, and the Queen felt it deeply; nor did the pleasure of the reception diminish, for this royal family of France, cultured, courteous, and with a certain simple amiability that won on the sincere nature of their royal guests, quickly made both Victoria and the Prince feel at home in their midst, and contrived to show charming hospitality in a delightfully easy and, as it were, a gay, unpremeditated fashion.

The first day of the stay at the chateau was a Sunday, and

QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISIT TO FRANCE

SEPTEMBER, 1843.

In 1843 the Queen made her first visit to France. She had long cherished a wish to make the acquaintance of the French King, who had been a great friend of her father's, and a favourable opportunity offering itself at the beginning of September, she and Prince Albert crossed the Channel on board their new steam yacht the *Victoria and Albert*. On their arrival at Tréport, where the royal family of France were staying, they were accorded a very warm reception, King Louis Philippe coming on board to welcome them and escort them to his château. Their stay in France, though short, was very enjoyable, and was often looked back upon with pleasure.

the Queen, true to her habits of early rising, was up by half-past seven, and looking out at the scene in the clear morning air, listening to the church-bells and the sound of a mill at work, and watching the people in the garden with all the interest that she never failed to show in the aspects of scenery and in personal and national peculiarities. Probably in deference to English customs, with which, of course, the king was well acquainted, a kind of Sunday quiet was preserved; but his Majesty as usual was full of spirits and of amusing anecdote. After hearing prayers read in a private room by one of the suite, the Queen and Prince Albert accompanied the royal hosts and some of the family over the principal part of the chateau to see the Gallery of the Guises, the great collection of family pictures saved from destruction by faithful servants during the Revolution, and the beautiful little chapel full of painted windows and statues of saints, quite a little gem, and the first Catholic chapel the Queen had ever seen. Her Majesty on this occasion made closer acquaintance with the widowed Duchess of Orleans, with whom she afterwards had much sympathetic conversation, so that she made way very quickly to the hearts of the bereaved mother and her children. There were drives in the forest, where a delightful *fête champêtre* occupied one day, the party returning to a cheerful dinner followed by a charming concert by the artists of the Conservatoire; there were domestic talks and interchanges of family confidence between Victoria and the amiable Queen of the French, who had undergone such sorrow and bereavement, and was truly tender and affectionate to the young mother, who showed her the portraits of "Puss and the Boy" (the Princess Royal and the Prince of Wales); and there was a glorious excursion of the whole company in *chars-à-bancs* to St. Catherine, a hunting-lodge in the forest,

where a kind of impromptu but yet perfect *dejeuner* was served under the trees. On the last evening of their stay, the Queen and the Prince with the other numerous guests were entertained by an excellent dramatic performance in the Galerie, which had been converted into a little theatre. "The first piece," the Queen informs us, "was *Le Château de ma Nièce*, in which Madame Mira acted delightfully; the second, *L'Humoriste*, in which Arnal sent us into fits of laughter. The speech in which he read out of a paper the following advertisement, "*Une Dame Espagnole désire entrer dans une maison, où il y a des enfants, afin de pouvoir leur montrer sa langue*" (A Spanish lady desires a place in a house, where there are children, so as to be able to show them her tongue), was enough to kill one."

On Thursday, September 7th, the return journey had to be made, and the whole party which had welcomed the coming, speeded the parting guests by going with them to Tréport, putting off with them in the royal barge, and the king, the princes, and ministers again going on board the yacht to say the last farewell. The Prince de Joinville remained to accompany the departing visitors as far as Brighton; and in recording this Victoria recalls a remarkable circumstance which appears again to suggest the sense of a threatening cloud hovering over the Orleans family: "The dear queen said, when she paid me that visit yesterday, in speaking of the children: 'I commend them to you, madame, when we shall be no more, and also to Prince Albert; give them your protection, they love you from their hearts.'"

Yes, it had been a delightful, a never-to-be-forgotten holiday, and none the less so because of the tender sentiments which had been associated with it. Nothing could have exceeded the courtesy and almost paternal kindness of the king, who, as a

souvenir of the visit, graciously presented Queen Victoria with two splendid pieces of Gobelins tapestry that had been thirty years in hand, and a box of beautiful Sevres china. There is no reason to doubt that the pleasure and the affection expressed by the heads of the French royal family were genuine, or that the words of welcome and of deep respect for England repeatedly uttered by the king were sincere; but the public here, or that section of it which watched foreign politics, was not without suspicion that there had been some private and confidential talk which might thereafter touch on foreign relations, and, as a matter of fact, this was so. The presence of "the good Aberdeen," as Stockmar used to call that rather weakly trustful minister, was not a guarantee against such a pair of nut-crackers as the wily Louis Philippe and the astute Guizot, and for some time it was thought that serious concessions or expressions might have been the result. This, however, was not the case, though, as it turned out afterwards, there *was* some conversation about the Spanish marriages. Prince Albert, writing to Stockmar, said:

"The family of Louis Philippe have a strong feeling that for the last thirteen years they have been placed under a ban, as though they were lepers, by all Europe, and by every court, and expelled from the society of reigning houses, and therefore they rate very highly the visit of the most powerful sovereign in Europe. The king said this to me over and over again. Guizot and Aberdeen, as might be expected, are being abused by both parties for betraying their country.

"Little passed of a political nature, except the declaration of Louis Philippe to Aberdeen, that he will not give his son to Spain, even if he were asked; and Aberdeen's answer, that, excepting one of his sons, any aspirant whom Spain might choose would be acceptable to England."

This, then, was the conclusion arrived at; but whether the French king intended to keep his promise or not, he afterwards broke it in the most deliberate and artful manner. The visit of the Queen and Prince Albert to France, however, cannot be said to have contributed to his breach of faith, and, indeed, had done much to establish some measure of international good feeling, which probably helped to prevent the graver consequences that might have ensued from his subsequent false dealing. To understand the topic of the informal conferences held at the Château d'Eu, it may be as well to note that in relation to the proposal to find a husband for the Infanta of Spain, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Cohary had been for some time regarded as a suitable person, and it was supposed that he would receive the support of England, though it had been repeatedly declared that England would remain neutral and would promote no claim so long as no Orleans alliance was attempted. On this the king pledged himself that at all events he would take no step to forward the marriage of the Infanta with Montpensier until after the Queen of Spain had married and had children to succeed to the throne.

We may see from the extracts made from Queen Victoria's journal, showing a very rare capacity for being easily pleased which belongs in a great measure to the equally rare talent for observation and comparison, that her Majesty had retained the characteristics which distinguished her as the Princess Victoria. One incident which occurred on the voyage to Tréport is recorded by Lady Bloomfield, and curiously illustrates how little the Victoria of former days had altered in a certain archness and love of fun. The favourite maid of honour says, "I remained on deck a long time with her Majesty, and she taught me to plait paper for bonnets, which was a favourite occupation

of the Queen's. Lady Canning and I had settled ourselves in a very sheltered place, protected by the paddle-box; and remarking what a comfortable spot we had chosen, her Majesty sent for her camp-stool and settled herself beside us, plaiting away most composedly, when suddenly we observed a commotion amongst the sailors, little knots of men talking together in a mysterious manner; first one officer came up to them, then another, looking puzzled, and then Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence was called. The Queen, much puzzled, asked what was the matter, and inquired whether we were going to have a mutiny on board? Lord Adolphus laughed, but remarked that he really did not know what *would* happen unless her Majesty would be graciously 'pleased to remove her seat.' 'Move my seat!' said the Queen; 'why should I? What possible harm can I be doing here?' 'Well, ma'am,' said Lord Adolphus, 'the fact is, your Majesty is unwittingly closing up the door of the place where the grog tubs are kept, and so the men cannot have their grog!' 'Oh, very well!' said the Queen, 'I will move on one condition, and that is, that you bring me a glass of grog.' This was accordingly done, and after tasting it the Queen said, 'I am afraid I can only make the same remark I did once before, that I think it *would* be very good if it were stronger.' This, of course, delighted the men, and the little incident caused much amusement on board."

The Queen and the Prince after their return from Tréport spent a few days at Brighton with their children, who had been taken there to meet them. On the 12th of September they embarked again for Ostend—on another long-desired journey—to meet the King and Queen of the Belgians, and with them to visit some of the grand old historical cities of Flanders. The tour was full of interest, for, as Prince Albert

said, the old cities had put on their fairest array, and were very tastefully decorated with tapestries, flowers, trees, and pictures, which, combined with the numerous old monuments, churches, and convents, and the gay crowds of people, produced a most peculiar effect. They were received with the greatest enthusiasm by the Belgian population, who regarded the confidential relations with England as a guarantee of a continuance of political well-being; and, apart from the quaint pageants and pleasant festivities with which she was entertained, Victoria was deeply gratified by being able to visit her uncle in his own kingdom. "It was such a joy for me," she wrote from her yacht a few hours after parting from him, "to be once again under the roof of one who has ever been a father to me!" But there were children there also. "We found uncle and aunt very well and greatly delighted at our visit," said Prince Albert afterwards to Stockmar. "The children are blooming. Little Charlotte¹ is quite the prettiest child you ever saw. . . . Leopold and Philippe are very tall of their age, and quite strong and vigorous."

The brief foreign travels were now over, and Prince Albert had to prepare for new and important duties. Late in the following month he accompanied the Queen to Cambridge, where they were received with a loyalty which fully equalled that which had been displayed at Oxford. They were accompanied into the city by as many as two thousand horsemen. Her Majesty was greatly pleased, if not somewhat surprised, by the enthusiasm of the undergraduates and the energy of their acclamations when the degree of LL.D. was conferred on the Prince, who was duly invested with cap and robe at the Senate House. Of course there was a state reception of the royal

¹ What strange events occurred in the relations of France and Belgium! This Charlotte in later years became the wife of the Archduke Maximilian, who was fatally induced to undertake the government of Mexico by Napoleon III, and came to a tragic end.

visitors by the Duke of Northumberland (the chancellor) and Professors and Masters of Arts in residence. Addresses were presented by Lord Lyndhurst, high-steward, and Mr. Whewell, vice-chancellor. The Queen held a levee on the evening of her arrival, and resided at Trinity College. An amusing letter of Professor Sedgwick records the visit of the royal party to the Woodwardian Museum, a way to which had to be cleared through the old divinity schools, which had become mere lumber-rooms and receptacles for all kinds of rubbish, and the professor had hard work to make the place look even decent.

"Inside the museum all was previously in order, and inside the entrance-door from the gangway was a huge picture of the Megatherium, under which the Queen must pass to the museum, and at that place I was to receive her Majesty. I bowed as low as my anatomy would let me, and the Queen and Prince bowed again most graciously; and so began Act First. The Queen seemed happy and well pleased, and was mightily taken with one or two of my monsters, especially with the *Plesiosaurus* and gigantic stag. The subject was new to her; but the Prince evidently had a good general knowledge of the old world, and not only asked good questions, and listened with great courtesy to all I had to say, but in one or two instances helped me on by pointing to the rare things in my collection, especially in that part of it which contains the German fossils. I thought myself very fortunate in being able to exhibit the finest collection of German fossils to be seen in England. They fairly went the round of the museum, neither of them seemed in a hurry, and the Queen was quite happy to hear her husband talk about a novel subject with so much knowledge and spirit. He called her back once or twice to look at a fine impression of a dragon-fly which I have in the Solenhope slate."

In the evening the royal party went to Wimpole, where they remained two nights as the guest of Lord Hardwicke, and after visiting Bourne, the country-seat of Lord De la Warr, returned to Wimpole to a grand ball, to which his lordship invited the county families and other distinguished guests.

In the following month a pleasant visit was made to Sir Robert and Lady Peel at Drayton Manor, and the Prince took the opportunity to go to Birmingham, not only because it is one of the most important towns in the kingdom, but because he desired to become acquainted with some of those manufactures for which it is celebrated. As it had recently been the scene of much rioting, and had the reputation of being the stronghold of Chartism, some of the ministry would have dissuaded him from making the journey, and represented that his appearance in the town might lead to disagreeable demonstrations; but he had already a conviction that any misrepresentation or hostile feeling which had been manifested against him proceeded from a few persons in quite a different class of the community, and that neither he nor the Queen need hesitate to trust to the friendly loyalty of the common people. Nor was he in the least mistaken: the entire population of 280,000 seemed to have come into the streets to receive him, and there was no mistaking their hearty and almost overpowering greetings: the expressions of good-will were universal, and the mayor, who rode in the carriage with the Prince and was said to be a Chartist of extreme views, said that the visit had created the greatest enthusiasm, that it had brought into unison bitterly hostile political parties, and that he would vouch for the devoted loyalty of the whole Chartist body.

Beside visiting some of the most important manufactoryes the Prince found time to see the town-hall and to listen to the

CHATSWORTH

Chatsworth, "the Palace of the Peak", is one of the most magnificent mansions in the United Kingdom. It is in Derbyshire, a little to the north-east of Bakewell, beside the river Derwent, which is partly enclosed within the extensive grounds. Shortly after the Norman Conquest the manor passed from the Crown into private hands, and in the sixteenth century it was purchased by Sir William Cavendish. Sir William began the erection of a large mansion, which was completed by his widow, the famous "Bess of Hardwick", Countess of Shrewsbury. This mansion, of which no trace remains, is celebrated as a prison of Mary, Queen of Scots, and as the abode for many years of Thomas Hobbes the philosopher. The present mansion was erected in 1687-1706 by William Cavendish, fourth Earl and first Duke of Devonshire, the architects being William Talman and Sir Christopher Wren, but the north wing was added about 1820 by the sixth Duke. The interior is no less magnificent than the exterior, and among the chief treasures are many rare books, splendid statues, several fine pictures, and beautiful wood-carvings. The grounds are far-famed, and the great conservatory, covering almost an acre, was designed by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Joseph Paxton, whose later plans for the Crystal Palace were based on it. Queen Victoria visited Chatsworth in 1832, before her accession, and again with Prince Albert in 1843. The eighth Duke of Devonshire was a prominent statesman of Queen Victoria's reign.



CHATSWORTH

THE RESIDENCE OF THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY VALENTINE

fine organ, and then went to King Edward the Sixth's School. It is worthy of note, as indicating his views, that he was strongly interested to learn from the head-master Dr. Lee, afterwards Bishop of Manchester, that though the institution was a Church of England foundation, there were 400 boys of Dissenters in the school, and that the scheme worked well. There was little time to explain in detail the manner in which this happy result was effected, but the Prince very shortly afterwards applied to Dr. Lee for further particulars of the system.

From Drayton Manor the Queen and the Prince, with their suite, went to Chatsworth, which was reached on the 1st of December, and were there entertained for three days with splendid courtesy and almost regal hospitality by the Duke of Devonshire in one of the most beautiful of the great houses of England, and amidst some of the finest scenery of the country. Thence they proceeded to Belvoir Castle, where there was a great hunting party, in which the Prince distinguished himself as a bold and skilful rider across country—much to the surprise of many, who had not expected to find that he could compete in the honours of the field with the fashionable hunting men of Melton and Leicester as well as practically promote art, music, and manufactures, and discuss the political situation with the leading Whigs who had attended the brilliant assembly at Chatsworth.

The rest and comparative retirement of Windsor must have been welcome after the excitement of these journeys, and the Queen took great interest in the progress of the model farms which his Royal Highness had now brought to such completeness that they were already excellent examples of successful experiments in agriculture and the raising of stock, the improvement of which the Prince was much interested in, and earnestly desired to encourage. He was able soon afterward to report

that he had done well by the sale by auction of some of his stock, and he then became a successful exhibitor at the agricultural shows. It was said at a later date by a good authority writing on the subject, that "the most practical man could not go that pleasant round from the Flemish farm to the Norfolk, and so back again by the home and the dairy, without learning something wherever he went." The Honourable Georgiana Liddell, who was about to become Lady Bloomfield, and whose waiting as the intimate attendant of the Queen was nearly over, wrote on December the 18th: "We walked with the Queen and Prince to the home farm, saw the turkeys crammed, looked at the pigs, and then went to see the new aviary, where there is a beautiful collection of pigeons, fowls, &c., of rare kinds. The pigeons are so tame they will perch on Prince Albert's hat and the Queen's shoulders. It was funny seeing the royal pair amusing themselves with farming."

It may be mentioned here that among the complaints or accusations then and subsequently raised by those who were on the look-out for excuses for censure or suspicion, was the allegation that the Prince realized a profit from his farming: as though the experiment would have been more noble and useful if it had proved to be unsuccessful. Early in 1846 the parochial authorities of Windsor appear to have regarded the Prince's profitable operations from another point of view, and claimed to rate the Flemish farm, a demand which his Royal Highness technically resisted, on the ground of the estate being royal property in royal occupation. This contention was supported by high legal authority, and the claimants then presented an address, in which, while admitting that they had been in error, they apologized for the observations reflecting on his Royal Highness which had appeared in the public prints, and asked

him to consider the hardship inflicted on the parish by the exemption of so large a property from the rating. This was quite another thing, and the Prince replied that he now felt himself at liberty to take the course most satisfactory to his own feelings, and to pay as a voluntary contribution a sum equal to the rate which would have been annually due had his legal liability been established.

Once more the royal parents were with their little children at Christmastide, and we can gather from letters and jottings in journals with what watchful eyes they marked the progress of the three infants, during the intervals between the brief journeys that had occupied the autumn. "The children in whose welfare you take so kindly an interest are making most favourable progress," wrote the Prince to Baron Stockmar. "The eldest, 'Pussy,' is now quite a little personage; she speaks English and French with great fluency and choice of phrase. . . . The little gentleman is grown much stronger than he was. . . . The youngest is the beauty of the family, and is an extraordinarily good and merry child."

"Our *Pussette*," the Queen wrote a few weeks afterwards, "learns a verse of Lamartine by heart, which ends with '*Le tableau se déroule à mes pieds.*' (The picture unrolls itself at my feet.) To show how well she understood this difficult line, I must tell you the following *bon-mot*. When she was riding on her pony, and looking at the cows and sheep, she turned to Madame Charrier (her governess), and said, '*Voilà le tableau qui se déroule à mes pieds!*' Is not this extraordinary for a child of three years?"

"She speaks French fluently," the favourite maid of honour wrote in her journal, "and she was reading the other day when Lady Lyttelton went up to her; so she motioned her away with

her hand and said, '*N'approchez pas moi, moi ne veut pas vous.*' The same authority records an interesting interview of the Duke of Wellington and the little princess, who was waiting to go for a drive with the Queen in the pony carriage. She looked at the duke very hard and earnestly, and in his most gallant manner he bent down and kissed her tiny hand, and he asked her to remember him, as no doubt she did and does still. "We drove with the Queen and the little princess yesterday," says another entry; "the latter chatted the whole time, and was very amusing. . . . The Queen was talking to us, and not taking any notice of the princess, who suddenly exclaimed, 'There's a cat under the trees'—fertile imagination on her part, as there was nothing of the kind; but having succeeded in attracting attention, she said: 'Cat came out to look at the Queen, I suppose.' Then she took a fancy to some heather at the side of the road, and asked Lady Dunmore to get her some. Lady Dunmore observed she could not do that, as we were driving too fast; so the princess answered, 'No, *you* can't, but *those girls* might get out and get me some,'—meaning Miss Paget and me."

While the household at Windsor was still pursuing its quiet occupations and domestic amusements, there came the sad intelligence of the death of Prince Albert's father at Gotha on the 29th of January, 1844. Baron Stockmar had long before endeavoured to prepare the Prince for an event, the probability of which the old physician had foreseen; but such warnings seldom diminish the force of very sudden calamities, and the deep filial affection of the Prince caused him to feel for the time overwhelmed with grief.

He felt keenly that the Duchess of Kent, the Queen, and himself were sitting together mourning for him whom he had not

seen for so long—whom in this world he would see no more—and that he was separated from the other mourners at Coburg, unable to comfort them or to be comforted by them in return. "The good Alexandrine," he wrote to Stockmar—speaking of his sister-in-law, "seems to me in the whole picture like the consoling angel. Just such is Victoria to me, who feels and shares my grief, and is the treasure on which my whole existence rests. The relation in which we stand to one another leaves nothing to desire. It is a union of heart and soul, and is therefore noble, and in it the poor children shall find their cradle, so as to be able one day to ensure a like happiness for themselves."

The Queen suffered greatly, not only because of the loss to herself, but on account of the deep grief of the husband whom she loved, and who now felt that the associations which had kept green the memory of his early youth had been suddenly broken by the death of his father. It was sorrow to them both to be separated even for the few days which would be required for the journey to Coburg, and for all that he would have to do; but she encouraged him to go that he might help to alleviate the sorrow of the bereaved family. Public business made it impracticable for him to leave England before parliament rose for the Easter recess; but on the 26th of March the Queen of the Belgians, with unsailing kindness, came to stay with Victoria at Windsor, and on the 28th he set out for Dover, whence he wrote to the Queen before embarking for Ostend. His letter, like others which he sent almost daily, was as much a "love-letter" as though it had been written before or immediately after their marriage. All the time he was away he counted the hours till his return, and described with tender graphic touches the incidents of his meeting with members of the family

and others, and his visits to various places full of gentle recollections, where he was received by the people with unaffected delight. One passage in his first letter from Dover reads strangely now:—"The railroad is wonderful, especially that part of it between this and Folkestone." The faithful Stockmar—old, feeble, and suffering from a recent illness, started for London, and did not even stop at Meiningen to see the Prince, who was to arrive there on the following day. On the 11th of April the Prince returned to Windsor. The brief entry in his diary was: "Crossed on the 11th. I arrived at six o'clock in the evening at Windsor. *Great joy!*"

The Queen's birthday was celebrated in the usual happy fashion. Her Majesty and the Prince had each prepared a surprise-present for each other in the shape of a picture, and each had commissioned Eastlake to paint it. That given by Prince Albert to the Queen was a little group of angels, such as her Majesty had admired on one of the frescoes in the garden-house at Buckingham Palace—angels offering a medallion inscribed "*Heil und Segen*" (health and blessing), and this was placed in a room hung with garlands.

Only a few days afterwards a rather startling piece of intelligence arrived at Windsor, to the effect that the Emperor of Russia was on his way to England, and might be expected at any time. Though not an absolute stranger to England, for, as we have seen, he had been here twenty-eight years before when he was grand-duke, this was rather an abrupt announcement of his coming for the first time to see the Queen, who was at Buckingham Palace, but was about to go down with the court to Windsor. It was one of the emperor's peculiarities to make sudden visits, but on arriving on the 1st of June he took up his abode with the Russian ambassador at Ashburnham

House, whence he was escorted next day to the palace, where he was received by the Queen.

The King of Saxony was also there as a guest, having arrived on the previous day, and soon won the regard and esteem of all who met him by his gentle courtesy and simple good-humour. He was a highly accomplished man, and came to England, not to be the recipient of ceremonious attentions, but for the pleasure of meeting the Queen and Prince Albert, and to see all that could be seen without giving much trouble. He appears to have enjoyed his visit thoroughly, and none the less, perhaps, that the arrival of the emperor gave him an opportunity of keeping more in the background and spending a good deal of time in sight-seeing on his own account. He remained a week after the emperor had left, and his unassuming, unaffected manners, his sweetness of character, and his evident delight at all that he had witnessed, left a most agreeable impression. Unhappily, this most amiable sovereign came to an untimely end by being thrown from his carriage in 1854.

There is an old saying, "Scratch the Russian and you will find the Tartar," and it might have been appropriately emphasized in relation to the compliment and show of courtesy displayed by the Emperor Nicholas toward the Queen and Prince Albert, and even to Lord Aberdeen and Sir Robert Peel. It was exaggerated, and many things that he said were inconsistent with his known practice, and his constant claims to autocratic dominion. In fact he came here obviously for a political purpose—to obtain some kind of assurance that the future interference with Turkey which he was then contemplating would not be actively discountenanced, even if it were not participated in by England. He detested the notion of an Anglo-French alliance that might thwart his schemes; and spoke

contemptuously of France and the opinions that might be held there.

The emperor was escorted to Windsor Castle by Prince Albert, and he greatly admired the magnificence of the royal residence, and the vast hospitality which was displayed there in a manner that gave no impression of any unusual effort. "It is worthy of you, madam," he said, when speaking to the Queen of the imposing beauty of the royal castle. It is recorded by her Majesty that he never drank a drop of wine, and ate extremely little, which was perhaps to be accounted for by his suffering from heat and from congestion in the head. "He is certainly a very striking man," the Queen said, "still very handsome; his profile is beautiful, and his manners most dignified and graceful; extremely civil, quite alarmingly so, he is so full of attentions and *politesse*s. But the expression of the eyes is severe and unlike anything I ever saw before. He gives Albert and myself the impression of a man who is not happy, and on whom the burden of his immense power and position weighs heavily and painfully. He seldom smiles, and when he does, the expression is not a happy one." Lady Lyttelton in one of her amusing descriptive letters wrote: "The only fault in his face is that he has pale eyelashes, and his enormous and very brilliant eyes have no shade; besides which they have the awful look given by occasional glimpses of white above the eyeball, which comes from his father Paul, I suppose, and gives a savage wildness for a moment, pretty often."

During his five days' visit everything possible was done to make that visit memorable. There was a grand review in Windsor Park, in which he was much interested, asking the Queen's permission to ride down the line, and on his return thanking her warmly for having allowed him to see his "old

comrades." He was surprised at the rapidity of the artillery movements, and it was said that during the inspection he was desirous of noting particularly the regiments that had fought and been victorious in India. The Iron Duke put himself at the head of his Life Guards as they passed before the Queen, and Prince Albert was also in front of his regiment, saluting the Queen not only with his sword but with a smile and a look of tender affection. It was said, that when the old duke first appeared on the ground the multitude cheered him with such loud enthusiasm that he felt compelled to direct their attention to the visitors in whose honour they had met, and taking off his hat called out, "The emperor! the emperor!"

The next day was Ascot day, and the royal party were at the races, where another brilliant reception awaited them from the enormous crowd assembled there. On the following day there was a return to Buckingham Palace, and in the evening a great dinner party, numbering 260; and on the morning of the 8th, the court, with the royal and imperial guests, attended a magnificent fête to which they were invited by the Duke of Devonshire at Chiswick. At dinner that evening the czar was profuse in his expressions of delight, saying what a brilliant assembly it had been, and what a great number of beautiful women had been present: for he was still an avowed admirer of female beauty; "but," the Queen archly wrote in her journal, "he remains very faithful to those he admired twenty-eight years ago."

In his repeated conversations with Sir Robert Peel and Lord Aberdeen, as well as with the Prince, the czar did "protest too much." His chief anxiety, he averred, was to convince English statesmen of his truthful and upright character, and his strictly honourable intentions; he was perpetually saying, to

everybody with whom he came in contact, "I know that I am taken for an actor, but indeed I am not. I am thoroughly straightforward; I say what I mean, and what I promise I fulfil."

The emperor would frequently talk with so little restraint and in such a loud voice that the Queen herself was somewhat concerned at it, and Stockmar records that on one occasion, the windows being open, people outside could hear all that he said, and Peel, to whom he was talking, was obliged to request him to withdraw to the end of the room.

The substance of his apparently unreserved representations was that his honest desire was to be on confidential and friendly terms with England; that he wanted things to remain as they were, with the concurrence of Austria; and that the condition of Turkey, the "sick man" or "dying man," as he used to call it, might soon require such intervention as would prevent the preponderating influence of any single power. "I do not covet one inch of Turkish soil for myself, but neither will I allow anybody else to have one," he declared to Sir Robert Peel; and it was evident enough that he was referring with almost bitter emphasis to France, and her recent policy in Eastern affairs.

How far this apparently unreserved and avowedly undiplomatic conversation may have been designed to draw his interlocutors into frank admissions or indiscreet promises is uncertain, but it undoubtedly was not successful in the one great object of his visit, namely, injuring the friendly overtures that might maintain an alliance between France and England. Whether he misinterpreted any portions of the conversations in such a way as to deceive himself that the English government would join him in some scheme of intervention in case of the collapse of the Porte or of a catastrophe in Turkey cannot

be determined. All that is certainly known is that he very soon acted as though this had been taken for granted. The Queen had at first much objected to his unexpected visit, partly, perhaps, because of political complications which might ensue from it, but she always insisted that the reception of foreign sovereigns should be of a totally independent character, and, as she afterwards wrote to King Leopold: "Our motives and politics are *not* to be exclusive, but to be on good terms with all—and why should we not? We make no secret of it." Truth to tell, however, her Majesty was somewhat put out by having to entertain a czar almost unawares, and the idea of the worry and bustle that such a reception would involve troubled her at a time when it was desirable that she should not be over-troubled. The emperor soon interested her, however. His evident affection for his wife and children; the manner in which he could attract her own little ones and play with them; and a certain personal gentleness and sentiment which, along with his melancholy, lay deep down in his character, moved her womanly heart; and she found that there was much in him that she could not help liking when in the quieter hours of conversation they learned to know and to understand each other.

There was a rather sad farewell spoken by the autocratic sovereign, who had all the time of his visit shown deep and earnest, almost grateful, respect for the young Queen and the Prince, who had, he said, treated him as a brother. He left the Queen and her children with caresses and blessings, which at the time were sincere and belonged less to his imperial than to his personal character. He had made munificent donations to some charities designed for the relief of distressed foreigners in London, and to one or two other institutions; had established a piece of plate, of the value of £500, to be run for annually at

Ascot; had distributed presents of great value to some old friends, and diamond snuff-boxes to gentlemen of the court, and so far may be said to have departed with an odour of fashionable sanctity; but the result of the political conversations was not long in arriving. After the return of the emperor to St. Petersburg a memorandum, drawn up by Count Nesselrode, was despatched to London, where it was deposited among the secret papers at the foreign office, so that its contents were not publicly known till ten years afterwards, at the time of the Crimean war. It is to be hoped that its assumptions were entirely gratuitous, and certainly its conclusions were neither endorsed nor acknowledged by English ministers. It set forth in effect that Russia and England being mutually penetrated with the conviction that it was for their common interest that the Ottoman Porte should maintain its condition of independence and territorial possession in the general interest of the maintenance of peace, the two countries had an equal interest in uniting their efforts to keep up the Ottoman Empire, and to avert all the dangers which could place its safety in jeopardy. That the Porte had a constant tendency to extricate itself from engagements imposed upon it by treaties made with other powers, reckoning upon their mutual jealousy, which would lead to the espousal of its quarrel by some powers when it came into collision with others; that it was necessary not to confirm the Porte in this delusion, and that every time it failed in its obligations towards one of the great powers it was the interest of all the rest to bring their influence to bear upon the offender. The object, therefore, to which Russia and England would have to come to an understanding was to seek to maintain the Ottoman Empire in its present state so long as that political combination should be possible. If it were foreseen that it

must crumble to pieces, to enter into a previous concert as to everything relating to the establishment of a new order of things, and in conjunction to see that the change which might have occurred in the internal situation of that empire should not injuriously affect either the security of their own states and the rights which the treaties assured to them respectively, or the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe. The emperor represented that Austria had agreed to this policy, and that if England, as the great maritime power concurred, France would probably be obliged to concur also and the peace of Europe would be maintained. Reading between the lines, and remembering that the emperor spoke of Turkey as already dying, it is fully obvious that he awaited some opportunity for an attack upon the Ottoman Empire.

The name of Queen Pomaré of Tahiti is not yet forgotten, and as early as 1838 she had written to Queen Victoria imploring assistance and protection against the encroachment of the French residents on the islands under her rule. Her appeal could not be answered by active interference, and in 1842 the intention of these encroachments was shown by the occupation of Tahiti by the French admiral under the pretext of protecting it. Again the unfortunate Pomaré wrote to our Queen, imploring assistance and protection, "the same as afforded relief to my fathers by your fathers." This led to communications, and after violent opposition on the part of the opponents of Guizot, who was accused of putting France at the feet of England, Admiral du Petit Thouars was recalled, and matters went on pacifically for several months, but his successor, the commandant of the French establishment at Tahiti, took the first opportunity of making what very nearly became a *casus belli*. His countrymen had resumed their arrogant demands, and their offensive

conduct towards the people of the island had become so unbearable, that the indignant natives were preparing to rise in defence of their rights. The British representative or consul at Tahiti was Mr. Pritchard, who first went to the island as a missionary, and had lived there for many years, so that he possessed great experience, and had, during the whole time of his residence, actively promoted the well-being of the natives. Of course the French Roman Catholic missionaries were jealous of his influence, and the officers of the "Protective" force scarcely less so, and, therefore, it happened that when a French sentry was seized and disarmed by some natives the commandant of the French establishment ordered Mr. Pritchard to be arrested, accused him of instigating the natives to disturbance, and declared that his property should be answerable for any damage caused to French establishments by the insurgents, and that every drop of French blood that might be shed should be on his head. In his despatches the commander spoke of him as "one Pritchard;" he was only released from arrest on the condition that he should instantly leave the Pacific; and this he was compelled to do without an opportunity of settling his affairs or even seeing his family. When Mr. Pritchard arrived at Valparaiso and came thence to London the public excitement both in and out of parliament was so great that the French alliance was scarcely worth a day's purchase. Sir Robert Peel indignantly denounced the aggression on the British consul as a gross insult accompanied with gross indignity committed by a person clothed with a temporary authority and, so far as could be discovered, by the direction of the French government.

King Leopold, who in the successive difficulties which had arisen with the French government had acted as an intermediary, was again in correspondence with Louis Philippe, who soon

repeated with more and more emphasis that he desired above all things cordial relations with England, and wished Tahiti with the blunders to which its occupation had led, was at the bottom of the sea. After some cooling down of excitement and rather lengthy diplomatic representations, satisfaction was obtained, explanations were given, a moderate indemnity was paid to Mr. Pritchard, and the Queen was able to write to her uncle: "The good ending of our difficulties with France is an immense blessing; but it is really and truly necessary that you and those in Paris should know that the danger was *imminent*." A blessing her Majesty doubtless felt it to be, for she had suffered much anxiety; and in the midst of it, on the 6th of August, 1844, the birth of a second son had taken place at Windsor Castle. "The only thing almost to mar our happiness," the Queen wrote to her uncle just after this event, "is the heavy and threatening cloud which hangs over our relations with France, and which, I assure you, distresses and alarms us sadly. The whole nation here are very angry. . . . God grant all may come right, and I am still of good cheer; but the French keep us constantly in hot water."

Preparations had soon to be made for the baptism of the infant⁶ second prince; but before that event there arrived at Windsor Castle a guest who was destined to become more distinguished in European history than either the Czar Nicholas or King Louis Philippe. This visitor was Prince William, brother and probable successor of the King of Prussia. He was then governor of Pomerania, and in his youth (for he was now forty-seven years old) had served in the campaigns against France in 1813-1815. He was a quiet, thoughtful man of no small experience and much sagacity, and though, perhaps, few people at that time expected that he would become the ruler of

a great united German empire, he exhibited an ability which impressed the Queen, who said: "I like him very much. He is extremely amiable, agreeable, and sensible, cheerful and easy to get on with. . . . On all public questions he spoke most freely, mildly, and judiciously, and I think would make a steadier and safer king than the present." The prince, who much enjoyed his visit and had a sincere admiration for the greatness of England, which he attributed to our political and religious institutions, became much attached to Prince Albert, with whom he remained on terms of friendship; their mutually frank disposition and the interchange of political views on the affairs of the Continent having at once given interest to their conversation. The prince remained only for a few days, but he was present at the quiet family gathering at the royal christening on the 6th of September, when the infant Prince, now the Duke of Edinburgh, was named Alfred Ernest Albert, the sponsors being Prince George of Cambridge, represented by his father the Duke; Prince Leiningen, represented by the Duke of Wellington; and the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, represented by the Duchess of Kent. "The scene was very solemn," her Majesty wrote. ". . . To see these two children there too (the Crown-princess and the Prince of Wales) seemed such a dream to me. . . . May God bless them all, poor little things!"

There was now no immediate apprehension of trouble in European affairs, and at home the financial measures of Sir Robert Peel had done much to revive commercial prosperity, while the national budget showed a serviceable surplus instead of an alarming deficiency. The condition of manufacturing industry and the distress of large numbers of artisans and agricultural labourers were, however, causing much uneasiness.

The Anti-Corn-law League was actively extending its operations and was daily increasing its numbers and influence. The state of affairs in Ireland was disheartening in the extreme, for to the ordinary effects of rioting and repeated local insurrection and agrarian outrage was added the want and destitution of a large part of the population. A change had, however, come over the scene so far as the repeal movement was concerned. O'Connell was reckless in statement, wild in appeal and denunciation, but comparatively prudent in action. How could he be otherwise, and yet hope to hold his position and to continue to agitate for what seemed to be no nearer! He knew very well that repeal of the union and the restoration of an Irish parliament on College Green would never be attained by "monster" meetings on the hill of Tara or elsewhere, and that actual rebellion would be fatal. It was only by the British parliament that any such changes of the government of Ireland as he sought could be really effected, even though he may have pretended not to count the House of Lords as a powerful factor against him. Of the Queen he always spoke with a certain tender regard and with abundant loyalty. Singularly enough it was to be to a great extent through the House of Lords that he was to lose the power that he exercised, and in a way that could scarcely have been expected. O'Connell never intended to incite to actual rebellion, or to employ physical force to attain the end that he had announced; but he desired to keep the government in mind that he had the control of an immense number of men, and that in that respect he was, as he had been called, "the uncrowned King" of Ireland. It was a perpetual threat of what he might or could do in case of a foreign war or of being driven to extremities. The stupendous meeting of, it is said, 2,000,000 persons around the hill at Tara was to be succeeded by another

equally imposing at Clontarf. The day before it was to be held the lord-lieutenant issued a proclamation prohibiting it as "calculated to excite reasonable and well-grounded apprehension." The proclamation had been dangerously delayed. Numbers of people were on the way to Clontarf; the surrounding roads were filled with them. The risk of a collision with the police and the troops was very great, and the loss of life would have been dreadful. It is not surprising that O'Connell and many of his supporters charged the government with the intention of bringing about a collision, that they might apprehend and punish the leaders and so terrify the people of the country. But O'Connell immediately issued a proclamation of his own, which was far more influential than that of the lord-lieutenant, saying that the orders of the government must be observed, and exhorting the people to return quietly to their own homes. He was obeyed, and no meeting was held; but from that moment his power over his immediate followers began to wane and the repeal agitation seemed to dwindle. The great agitator had no intention of resorting to physical force, and all the magnificent display of power had been only demonstration. There was division among the repealers—there had been an anti-climax. It was impossible to maintain the extraordinary conditions of enthusiasm under which the leader had kept the Irish people in suspense, and the "national" movement was split into two divisions, which differed as to the means to be employed to attain the common end.

O'Connell and some of his followers were prosecuted by the government, and after a lengthy trial were found guilty. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment and a fine of £2000. The others received lighter sentences. He then appealed to the House of Lords, at the same time issuing

a proclamation to the Irish people directing them to remain quiet and to commit no offence against the law, and they again obeyed. Three of the law lords out of five were of opinion that the judgment against O'Connell should be reversed, on the ground that the jury lists on the trial had been improperly prepared. In a country professing the Roman Catholic religion, and on the trial of a Roman Catholic prisoner, there had been no Roman Catholic on the jury. The sentence was cancelled, the great agitator was released, and his release was celebrated by a grand triumphal procession; but the notes of gratulation might well have sounded in a minor key, for his release was really a proof of the triumph of a regard for law and justice in the very assembly which he had so often assailed. The influence of O'Connell was never the same after the trial, but the men who now sought to supersede him could never attain to the same power or ascendancy over the people, either to rouse them to any genuine enthusiasm or to restrain them from crime and useless acts of violence.

The condition of Ireland was not such as to make it expedient for the Queen and Prince Albert to visit the country so soon after the excitement caused by the release of the prisoners. Doubtless her Majesty might have gone there with safety, and it is not probable that either she or the Prince would have feared to do so; but the ministry advised against it, and an invitation was therefore accepted from Lord Glenlyon, who had placed Blair Castle at the disposal of her Majesty.

Some of us may remember what a theme "Blair-Athole" some time afterwards became for the satirical papers, when Lord Glenlyon had become Duke of Athole, and displayed the most extraordinary determination in forcibly preventing tourists from entering, even by means of roads or paths, his property at Glen

Tilt. This, however, was a good while after the Queen's second visit to the Highlands.

An early start was made from Windsor on the 9th of September, a very wet morning. The little Princess Alice and the baby (the five-weeks-old Prince Alfred) were taken in to say "good-bye" and to see grandmama, who had come to say "good-bye" also. Then the little Prince of Wales appeared, and "Vicky," the Princess Royal, who was to be taken to Scotland, and was already prepared and impatient to go on this her first important journey, during which she seems to have acquitted herself with admirable self-possession and to have shown that she inherited the capacity for calmly enjoying in her own way the occurrences and events of the hour. The royal yacht reached Dundee on the morning of the 11th, and the barge conveyed the royal party to the landing-place or staircase covered with red cloth. The Queen says: "Albert walked up the steps with me, I holding his arm and Vicky his hand, amidst the loud cheers of the people, all the way to the carriage, our dear Vicky behaving like a grown-up person, not put out, nor frightened, nor nervous." The self-possessed little princess was then consigned by a stalwart footman to the carriage next to that of the Queen, with her governess and her nurse, and we are informed that during the long drive to the Pass of Killiecrankie, and thence to Blair-Athole, her conduct was irreproachable. At a small but clean inn at Dunkeld the royal party alighted that the princess might have some broth, and she stood at the window and bowed to the people assembled outside. The Queen might well record that the presence of the child travelling with them reminded her of herself when she was the "little Princess." The little "Vicky" was an excellent traveller, going to sleep at her usual times in the

carriage, not put out or frightened by crowds, but pleased and amused. She never even heard the anchor go at night on board ship, but slept as sound as a top.

The journey to the castle was, of course, diversified by loyal demonstrations, and it is mentioned that after leaving Dunkeld, where Lord Glenlyon joined the party, the Queen and the Prince stopped at Moulinearn to taste the "Athole brose," which was brought to the carriage. The visit was to be a quiet one, free from all ceremonial. Lord and Lady Glenlyon had given up Blair to the royal party, and were themselves living in the factor's house at a little distance. The Queen's account of her stay records her enjoyment of the Highland scenery which she was able to visit with the Prince, both of them riding on the mountain ponies provided for them, and attended only by a faithful Highland servant of Lord Glenlyon, one Sandy M'Ara, or on other occasions making up a party to go in carriages, the Prince driving with the Queen and the ladies, to visit some points of interest. There was a delightful drive when the Prince took her Majesty in the pony phaeton along Glen Tilt and amidst lovely scenery, all within five miles of the castle; and there were walks to view the falls and to other spots, each of which gave a new sensation of delight. There was, of course, some shooting and deer-stalking, which was witnessed by the Queen and some of her party, who had to speak in whispers lest they should spoil the whole business; and there was sketching on the hill, while on another hill opposite, but a long way off, the Prince was seen like a black speck, creeping to get a shot at the deer. It is not easy to discover from the Queen's journal whether she or the Prince enjoyed their visit most; but her Majesty records her sadness when she rode for the last time on the mountain pony Arghait

Bean (presented to her afterwards by the Duke of Athole) and took leave of him and the faithful Sandy M'Ara.

Writing to King Leopold on the 28th of September the Queen said: "The place possesses every attraction you can desire, shooting, fishing, beautiful scenery, great liberty and retirement, and delicious air." A few days before Prince Albert had written to the Dowager Duchess of Coburg: "We are all well, and live a somewhat primitive, yet romantic mountain life, that acts as a tonic to the nerves, and gladdens the heart of a lover like myself of field sports and of nature. Pussy's cheeks are on the point of bursting, they have grown so red and plump; she is learning Gaelic, but makes wild work with the names of the mountains. We leave this on the 1st and expect by 6 P.M. of the 3d to reach Windsor, where, after a preliminary training on the sea, the bold deer-stalking mountaineer will have to transform himself into a courtier, to receive and entertain the King of the French, and play the part of a staid and astute diplomatist."

On the 3d of October the court had returned to Windsor, and on the 8th Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duke of Wellington, went to meet the King of the French, who had arrived at Portsmouth with the Duc de Montpensier and some of his ministers. The British public, notwithstanding the recent troubles about Tahiti, seemed ready to accord a hearty welcome to Louis Philippe, whom they evidently preferred to the czar, and the mayor and corporation of the seaport presented him with an address, to which he responded adroitly enough.

Lady Lyttelton's description of the arrival at the castle is pretty well known, but it will bear repetition for its graphic quaintness. "At two o'clock he arrived, this curious king; worth seeing if ever a body was! The Queen having graciously

permitted me to be present, I joined the court in the corridor, and we waited an hour, and then the Queen of England came out of her room, to go and receive the King of France; the first time in history! Her Majesty had not long to wait (in the armoury, as she received him in the state apartments, his own private rooms; very civil). And from the armoury, amidst all the old trophies and knights' armour, and Nelson's bust, and Marlborough's flag, and Wellington's, we saw the first of the escort enter the quadrangle, and down flew the Queen, and we after her, to the outside of the door on the pavement of the quadrangle, just in time to see the escort clattering up, and the carriage close behind. The old man was much moved, I think, and his hand rather shook as he alighted; his hat quite off, and gray hair seen. His countenance is striking, much better than the portraits, and his embrace of the Queen was very parental and nice. Montpensier is a handsome youth, and the courtiers and ministers were well-looking, grave, gentleman-like people. It was a striking piece of *real* history—made one feel and think much."

Doubtless the principals in the event felt and thought much also. The Queen wrote in her journal: "What numbers of emotions and thoughts must fill his breast on coming here!" Certainly if ejaculatory expressions of gratification and admiration were proofs of emotion they were not wanting. "Heavens, how beautiful!" he said as he went up the grand staircase towards his apartments; and when he reappeared at luncheon he was in the highest spirits, not without recollections of his former English experiences, and repeating how happy it made him to be a visitor to the Queen; and when they were looking at the picture-galleries, where he knew every bust and was delighted with every painting, and generally was as lively as ever any

elderly gentleman could be, Heavens, what a pleasure it was to him to give Queen Victoria his arm!

He was full of frank gaiety mingled with quite touching gratitude, even speaking of the Tahiti affair, of the preposterous notion of its assuming the proportions of a misunderstanding between the two nations. For his part he would much like to be rid of the island altogether. The French only wanted it for their whalers, which he trusted the Marquesas would do for. He drove to the places which had been familiar to him when he was here in earlier years, and he himself directed the postilions which way to take that they might pass the house where he lived for five years with his poor brothers before his marriage. The royal party went to Claremont to lunch, the king all the time delighted with his reception by the people on the route, with the charming, yet familiar, aspect of the country, especially with the appearance of neatness and cleanliness, to all of which he directed his son's attention as he talked on, took off his hat and bowed low, stretching out his hands in response to salutations, and generally, as afterwards at Windsor Park and Virginia Water, professed to be delighted and enchanted with everything. It was not surprising that on his return from this excursion he should express gratification, or that, as he sat at dinner, he should tell the Queen of the time when he was in a school in the Grisons as a teacher under the name of Chabot, receiving twopence a day, and having to brush his own boots.

On the following day (Oct. 9th) the king was invested by Queen Victoria with the order of the Garter.

The week's visit came to a close, and the Queen and Prince accompanied his majesty to Portsmouth; but the weather was so unpropitious that at the last moment he determined to go by way of Dover and Calais, a change of route for which Prince

Albert made such prompt and effectual arrangements that the king was able to send the same evening from Dover a parting compliment: "It is only in this admirable country that such a thing can be done." The admiral and officers of the squadron who had accompanied the king to Portsmouth, and fraternized cordially with the English officers there, were disappointed; but the Queen and Prince Albert, who had passed the night on board her Majesty's yacht, consoled them by breakfasting on board the *Gomer*, the frigate which had brought the king over; and when her Majesty proposed the king's health the enthusiasm of the French officers showed that the compensation was loyally appreciated.

The concluding public event in which Queen Victoria took a personal part that year was the opening of the new Royal Exchange. On the 10th of January, 1838, the previous building had, like its predecessor, the original and venerable exchange erected by Sir Thomas Gresham, been destroyed by fire. The present fine and spacious structure had been erected on an eminently suitable site, and was deemed worthy of being inaugurated by Queen Victoria, as the original building, founded by the munificence of the famous merchant prince, had been honoured by the presence of Queen Elizabeth. At eleven o'clock the procession left Buckingham Palace; the Queen, accompanied by Prince Albert in her state carriage with its eight cream-coloured horses, was attended by Lady Canning and the Earl of Jersey, master of the horse. Other carriages conveying ministers of state and the chief officers of the household preceded her, and the procession ended with an escort of life guards. Her Majesty wore a tiara of diamonds, a robe of white satin, and a mantle of ermine. Prince Albert was in the uniform of a colonel of artillery. Along the line of route the

crowded streets were gaily decorated, every window was filled with well-dressed people. At Temple Bar the lord-mayor and civic authorities, robed and wearing the insignia of office, awaited the Queen, and after the customary presentation of the keys and sword preceded her to the new building. On alighting, the Queen and the Prince were conducted by the lord-mayor and his sword-bearer round the quadrangle, across the ambulatory, and then up to Lloyd's merchants' room, through the underwriters' room to the reading-room, where, seated on a throne and surrounded by a brilliant company, the Queen received an address which was read by the recorder. Her Majesty replied by expressing the pleasure it gave her "to behold the restoration of this noble edifice which my royal ancestors regarded with favour and which I esteem worthy of my care. The relief of the indigent, the advancement of science, the extension of commerce were the objects contemplated by the founder of the exchange. These objects are near to my heart, and their attainment will, I trust, be recorded among the peaceful triumphs of my reign." Turning to the lord-mayor, Victoria said: "It is my intention, Mr. Magnay, to confer the dignity of a baronet upon you to commemorate the event;" and then addressing the home secretary, she added, "Sir James Graham, see that the patent is prepared." The company then returned to the underwriters' room, where a sumptuous *déjeuner* was laid for 1300 guests. The toasts of the Queen, Prince Albert, and the royal family having been duly honoured, those of the lord-mayor and of the city of London were announced, and the Queen joined in the last toast with a simple vivacity which delighted the civic hosts. The Queen with the Prince then went down to the great quadrangle of the building, where, surrounded by the illustrious visitors, the heralds having made

proclamation, she received a slip of parchment from Sir James Graham, and in an audible voice said, "It is my royal will and pleasure that this building be hereafter called 'the Royal Exchange.'" After a few words of courtesy to the lord-mayor and Mr. Tite, the architect, the Queen took the arm of the Prince and proceeded to her carriage to return to Buckingham Palace amidst repeated demonstrations of affectionate loyalty. Writing to King Leopold next day the Queen said, "The procession there, as well as the proceedings at the Royal Exchange, were splendid and royal in the extreme. It was a fine and gratifying sight to see the myriads of people assembled, more than at the coronation even, and all in such good humour, and so loyal. I seldom remember being so pleased with any public show, and my beloved Albert was most enthusiastically received by the people. . . . The articles in the papers, too, are most kind and gratifying. They say no sovereign was ever more loved than I am (I am bold enough to say), and *this* because of our happy domestic home, and the good example it presents."

This conclusion was still further verified when in the following month the Queen and the Prince went through Northampton, that "centre of Radicalism," on their way to visit the Marquis of Exeter at Burleigh; but, as Lord Spencer had emphatically reminded a Liberal audience, the constitutional attitude which her Majesty maintained in relation to political parties was also a strong ground for the confidence and respect with which she was popularly regarded.

When Sir Robert Peel brought forward his financial statement early in February, 1845, he showed a surplus of £5,800,000, and, confident in the elasticity of the trade and resources of the country, at once abolished export duties and the import duties

on a very great number of articles which had previously paid to the customs revenue, but the liberation of which would, he believed, benefit the poorer classes of the community. He proposed to retain the income-tax for three years longer, and to increase the navy estimates, so that ships might be provided for the more adequate protection of the Channel and the addition of three vessels on foreign stations.

There was a passage in the speech of the premier which must have been personally satisfactory to the Queen, and was not unappreciated by parliament and the country. The reforms and wise economies which had been effected in the management of the royal household had already made so considerable a reduction in expenditure that Sir Robert Peel was able, in illustration of some of his remarks, to say:—"Any executive government that would have a due regard to the exercise of a wise and judicious economy could not do better than follow the example which has been set them by the control exercised over her own expenditure by the Sovereign. A settlement was made of the civil list on her accession to the throne. On the occasion of her marriage no addition was made to that civil list. It has pleased God to bless that marriage by the birth of four children, which has made a considerable additional demand upon the civil list. In the course of last year three sovereigns visited this country, two of them the most powerful sovereigns in the habitable globe—the Emperor of Russia and the King of the French. Those visits of necessity created a considerable increase of expenditure; but through that wise system of economy, which is the only source of true magnificence, her Majesty was enabled to meet every charge, and to give a reception to those sovereigns which struck everyone by its magnificence, without adding one tittle to the burdens of the

country. And I am not required on the part of her Majesty to press for the extra expenditure of one single shilling on account of these unforeseen causes of increased expenditure."

This intimation, which could only have been publicly made by the premier, was not only satisfactory, but opportune and appropriate, as arrangements had just been completed for the purchase by Queen Victoria of an attractively situated residence, standing in an estate of 800 acres, at Osborne, in the Isle of Wight. The Queen and the Prince had been very desirous of possessing a private residence not too far from London, to enable them to go to and from the metropolis in a few hours, and yet with the advantages of real retirement and the benefit of sea air. The mansion and estate at Osborne had been commended to the notice of the Queen by Sir Robert Peel, and her Majesty and the Prince went to see it at the time that they accompanied the King of the French to Portsmouth. The Queen wrote after she had taken possession:—"It is impossible to see a prettier place, with woods and valleys, and points of view which would be beautiful anywhere, but when these are combined with the sea (to which the woods grow down) and a beach which is quite private, it is really everything one could wish." The sea view from Osborne is very fine, with Portsmouth and Spithead in the background; and the estate was such as to give an excellent opportunity for Prince Albert to design the laying out of the grounds with such artistic skill as to make the best of their most beautiful features. The purchase of the original estate, which belonged to Lady Isabella Blatchford, was soon negotiated, and to the 800 acres were added adjoining land bought from time to time until the property reached its present extent of 2300 acres, and here as at Windsor the Prince enjoyed not only the artistic delight of landscape-gardening, but the practical pleasure of

model scientific farming, which he contrived to make pay for the improvements that he introduced, and even to yield a profit on the outlay. The place grew in beauty every year, and it had a real home-like character. The Queen records how, in the happy peaceful walks that she and the Prince took together in the woods, he loved to listen for the songs of the nightingales, and would whistle to them in their own long peculiar note, which they invariably answered. The happy royal pair would often stand out on the balcony at night to hear their song. The balcony referred to is that of the present residence, for the mansion-house was found to be too small for the royal establishment, and in June, 1845, only three or four months after the purchase, the first stone of the new house was laid, the building having been planned by the Prince, and erected by Mr. Thomas Cubitt. There was a true charm to the Queen and the Prince in the sense of ownership of this pleasant retreat, without dependence on a department of the government or the state. Even as early as March, 1845, her Majesty wrote to King Leopold:—"It sounds so pleasant to have a place of one's own, quiet and retired and free from all Woods and Forests, and other charming departments, which really are the plague of one's life."

Queen Victoria perceived with sympathy and admiration the courage and honesty of purpose which sustained Sir Robert Peel at a time when by his financial measures and the remission of duties he appeared to be departing from his former policy and to be making concessions which his own supporters affirmed were evidences that he was entering on a gradual but significant adoption of "free-trade." He had to contend not only with a powerful opposition, but with those members of the Tory party who were now ready to join their reproaches and invectives to the indefatigable representations of their

opponents, who by the operation of the Anti-Corn-law League were raising throughout the country a formidable organization against a government already in a precarious condition. Only Peel's constancy and self-command could have sustained his position; and his fearless determination to act according to his convictions without regard to the charges of perversion brought against him, confirmed the esteem in which his character was held by the Queen and the Prince. The Queen, writing to Sir Robert intimating her intention of acting as sponsor to his grandchild, the son of Lord and Lady Villiers, inclosed a letter which she had received from King Leopold speaking in warm terms of his policy. In reply, the premier, thanking the Queen for the favour which she proposed to confer on Lady Peel and himself, said, referring to the king's letter, that he looked for no other reward apart from her Majesty's favourable opinion than that posterity should confirm the judgment of King Leopold that he was a true and faithful servant of the Queen, and used the power committed to him for the maintenance of the honour and just prerogatives of the crown and the advancement of the public welfare. This was in accordance with his later decision when the Queen caused to be conveyed to him the intimation that she would be pleased to confer upon him the order of the Garter. Thanking her Majesty most gratefully for the honour she proposed to bestow upon him, he begged permission to decline it, unless his acceptance would forward the measure he had in hand, and thereby advance the service of the Sovereign. It was well known that he possessed her Majesty's confidence, and the general impression to that effect would not be strengthened by this mark of her favour. He sprang from the people and was essentially of the people, and such an honour in his case would be misapplied.

The measure to which the prime-minister was then devoting himself was one which tested not only his qualities of determination and self-control, but his political ability and address in carrying a bill against a large section of his own party—that which had formerly owned him as their leader, but was now arrayed against him under Sir Robert Inglis.

Ireland was the great difficulty of the government, and the so-called Maynooth Bill then brought forward was largely associated with some of the endeavours that were made to improve the relations between the two countries.

The Roman Catholic college of Maynooth, in which young men were educated for the priesthood, had for fifty years received a parliamentary grant of £9000 a year; but this had long been inadequate to maintain and extend the institution, or even to keep in repair the college building. Sir Robert Peel, therefore, proposed to increase the grant to £30,000, in accordance with the repeated petitions of the Roman Catholic clergy.

It was also proposed to establish Queen's Colleges at Belfast, Cork, and Galway, which should be open for secular education to all students, without religious distinction. Of course the opposition by the extreme Protestant party* was violent and determined, and though most of the Whigs were constrained to support the measure, some of them, and among them Lord Macaulay, taunted the premier and his supporters with the opposition displayed by those on whom they had relied to defeat endeavours made by the Liberal party in defence of religious liberty. The excitement in London and some of the large towns was tremendous; and the extreme Roman Catholic clergy and laity endorsed the declaration of Sir Robert Inglis, that the proposed Queen's Colleges were a gigantic scheme

of godless education. But notwithstanding all the opposition the bill passed; and the colleges, which continued to be nicknamed "the godless colleges," were established. It may be mentioned that Mr. William Ewart Gladstone, who was then rising to distinction in parliament, and by his great financial and economical ability had materially assisted Sir Robert Peel in the important fiscal measures of his government, felt obliged to resign his office as president of the board of trade in consequence of his having expressed opinions in a treatise on the relations of the state with the church, which he thought precluded him from being pledged as a minister to support the measure, though as an independent member he voted in its favour.

In the first month of the year the Queen and the Prince with their suite had accepted an invitation to pay a visit to the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe, where they were received with magnificent hospitality, but could only remain for two days. After returning to Windsor Castle for a short time they went to Strathfieldsaye, where the Duke of Wellington had long looked forward to the pleasure of receiving the Sovereign whose predecessors he had so faithfully served in war and in peace, and to whom he was as loyally devoted now that her children had learned to know him as he had been when he was present at her first council. The entertainments at Strathfieldsaye were probably somewhat quiet, and perhaps even a little formal, but the Prince got some shooting, and the old duke could still tramp over the fields and carry a gun. There was company, of course, but apparently the duke's delight was to realize that the young Queen was truly his guest. He took her in to dinner and sat by her Majesty, and after dinner would rise and say, "With your Majesty's permission, I give the health of her Majesty;" and

then went through a similar form in proposing the health of the Prince. The distinguished guests would then adjourn to the library, where the duke would sit on the sofa by the Queen, and talk to her for a great part of the evening, while the band of the duke's Grenadier regiment played in a large conservatory beyond. We are not informed what were the subjects of conversation with which the duke amused her Majesty, but he could be amusing enough and tell some good stories with much dry humour, and his reminiscences must have extended to society already old enough to have become historical.

On the 6th of June Queen Victoria entertained a brilliant assembly at a fancy-dress ball at Buckingham Palace. Like former assemblies of the kind, one principal reason for this entertainment was to give a fillip to trade, and though it was far less costly and magnificent than the famous Plantagenet Ball, it was extremely picturesque and admirably arranged. The period represented by those who took part in it was from 1740 to 1750, and from the prevalence of hair-powder or powdered wigs, it was spoken of as "the Powder Ball." The assembly was chiefly distinguished, however, for the magnificent lace worn by ladies, the representatives of ancient families, with whom lace and diamonds were heirlooms, or who had come into possession of treasures of this kind which had historical interest.

At all events, the world of beauty, rank, and fashion was here represented by great dames and graceful damsels who rustled in garments made to represent the mode of their great-great-grandmothers, and adorned with jewels the value of which would have represented more than a king's ransom of a bygone age. The Queen wore a dress of cloth of gold and cloth of silver, wrought with silken daisies and poppies, and trimmed with superb old lace and ornamented with jewels and the star and riband of the

GRAND NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD
JUNE, 1845

Nothing can bring home more forcibly the great naval development which took place during the reign of Victoria than a comparison of the review of 1845 with that of 1897, the Diamond Jubilee year. The increase in number of vessels is itself sufficiently striking, but the whole progress is not seen till the nature of the vessels and ~~many other~~ supplies, ~~lars~~ are taken into account. One authority sums up the most important changes thus: "the change from sails to steam, from wooden walls to armour of proof, from armaments of many light guns to armaments of few guns of tremendous power"; and adds: "We can trace in ~~the~~ the evolution of the ships some of the changes which have occurred in the ~~the~~ relations of the empire".



GRAND NAVAL REVIEW AT SPITHEAD, June, 1845

FROM THE DRAWING BY WAL PAGET

Garter; on her head a diamond tiara. Prince Albert wore a suit of the early Georgian period, crimson velvet and white satin, edged and brocaded with gold. Prince Leiningen, the Queen's brother, a white suit faced with blue, and a buff waistcoat silver-laced. The Duchess de Nemours, the cousin of Prince Albert, wore rose-coloured Chinese damask with point d'Alençon and silver, and gloves and shoes embroidered with fleurs-de-lys. The duke, her husband, appeared in the old uniform of a French general of infantry, white and gold; Prince George of Cambridge as a cavalry officer of 1740. The earlier dances were mostly of a stately kind, the German polonaises being followed by a set of minuets, in the first four of which the Queen took part. Her Majesty's partners were Prince Albert, the Duc de Nemours, Prince Leiningen, and Prince George of Cambridge; and the ball, as usual, ended with Sir Roger de Coverley.

On the 23d of June the royal party, who were at Osborne, attended a grand naval review at Spithead, where the Lords of the Admiralty and a number of distinguished visitors witnessed the very imposing evolutions of the fleet. The Queen arrived on the 21st, and was received on board the *St. Vincent*, and the royal party afterwards visited the *Trafalgar* and the *Albion*. On the 23d, on the royal yacht reaching Spithead, the yards of all the ships were manned and a general salute was fired. Never since the peace of 1815 had the roadstead exhibited such an amount of naval strength, yet all has since that time undergone a complete change, and the British navy of to-day bears no resemblance to that which then elicited so many expressions of satisfaction as the Queen, at the conclusion of the display, passed through the squadron on her return to Cowes.

The Queen had for some time desired to visit Ireland, and had hoped that after the prorogation of Parliament this year

she might carry the wish into effect, but there were still some objections to her undertaking the excursion. There was no reason to doubt the loyalty and good-will of the Irish people, but the condition of the country was such as to make it desirable again to defer the visit. The seceders from O'Connell had now become his vindictive opponents. Though it was not to be concluded that the real opinions of those who had been his junior colleagues and were to be his successors were represented by all that their wild and whirling words implied, agrarian crime had seriously increased, and it was believed that some exceptional measures would have to be taken to enforce the law against those who incited their followers to deeds of violence. At the same time there were signs of greater want and suffering among the Irish peasantry. An inclement spring and a wet summer foreboded a poor harvest, and there were appalling symptoms of a disease by which the potato crop would be destroyed.

As early as May the corporation of Dublin had presented an address to the Queen, in which they declared that the mere rumour that she intended to visit Ireland had filled every heart with gladness, and that warmly as she had been greeted elsewhere, her Irish subjects should not be exceeded in the true and hearty welcome which, with united voice, should hail her on landing on their shores. The Queen, however reluctantly, had to leave the date of her intended visit uncertain, though in reply to the address she was able to give the assurance that "whenever she might be enabled to visit Ireland to receive the promised welcome, she should rely with confidence upon the loyalty and affection of her faithful subjects."

Another holiday tour had been proposed, in which the Queen was necessarily greatly interested—a visit by way of the Rhine

to Saxony—to the birthplace of her beloved husband, and the home of her maternal ancestors.

There were no urgent affairs of state compelling the holiday to be restricted to a few days only, and the tour might occupy the autumn recess, as the Queen would at no point be more than two days' journey from London, and would be accompanied by Lord Aberdeen, a cabinet minister, and Lord Liverpool, beside the ladies Gainsborough and Canning, Mr. Anson and Sir James Clark, who were in the royal suite. On the 8th of August the Queen left Osborne, parting from her four children with a rather heavy heart. "Poor little Vicky seemed very sorry, but did not cry. . . . It was a painful moment with the three poor little things standing at the door. . . . We reached Buckingham Palace at one. Everything so deserted and lonely here, and I miss the poor children so much."

On the following day the Queen prorogued Parliament in person, and in the evening sailed with the Prince and their suite from Woolwich to Antwerp in very rough weather, probably much to the discomfiture of poor Lord Aberdeen, who was not much of a sailor, and it was said suffered considerably during these yachting excursions.

From Antwerp, where they were received with hearty demonstrations, the royal party went by railway to Malines, whence the King and Queen of the Belgians accompanied them to Verviers. At the Prussian frontier the train was met by Lord Westmoreland, our Prussian ambassador, Chevalier Bunsen, and gentlemen of the Prussian court, and at Aix-la-Chapelle by the king and the princes of the royal house; an assemblage of the clergy, and a number of young ladies dressed in white, one of whom recited some appropriate verses, assisting in the welcome. At Cologne, where the visitors drove to see the cathedral, the narrow streets were filled

with an enthusiastic crowd, and part of the carriage route was sprinkled with eau-de-Cologne, a delicate attention, the full significance of which was not explained.

The Queen's own vivacious and picturesque notes of this journey, which appear in *The Life of the Prince Consort*, convey not only a clear and accurate account of the impression produced by the delightful scenery of the Rhineland and of Saxony, but of the people and the quaint costumes and observances, the village fêtes, no less than the splendid state receptions—the manner and appearance of peasants and townsfolk, as well as the aspects of princes and dignitaries at court ceremonials. We have noted that the King of Prussia was regarded as a kindly, pleasant man, and people here as well as in other places regarded him as a gentleman of the dilettante order, without much moral or mental strength of character, but with taste, and what is called "culture." He was somewhat self-indulgent, easy-going, and with a liking for the "pleasures of the table," which led to his being nicknamed "Clicquot," from a famous "brand" of champagne, of which he was reputed to be fond.

At all events he was a graceful and superbly hospitable host, and the royal visitors, on their arrival at Bruhl, were conveyed to the palace, where the Queen and the Princess of Prussia, Archduke Frederick of Austria, and the whole court received them in state. The stay at the sumptuous though rather "rococo" palace was marked by a round of splendid festivities; but it may be well believed that the Queen was most delighted with her visits to Bonn, where she went to see the little house in which Prince Albert had lived when he was a student at the university. Many of his old friends and tutors were presented to the Queen, for there was a reception and a grand musical festival, with the unveiling of a statue of Beethoven, of which her Majesty could

only see the back from the place where she and the Prince witnessed the ceremonies. There were great banquets at the palace at Bruhl, at the first of which the king in felicitous terms proposed the toast of the Queen and of "her august Consort," clinking glasses with Prince Albert in the German fashion, a recognition of the rank and high distinction of the Prince, which the Queen acknowledged by bowing lower than at the mention of her own name, and by rising and kissing the king on the cheek the moment after the dual toast had been honoured. The illumination of Cologne and the state concerts were exceedingly grand, and one given on the last evening of her Majesty's stay was conducted by Meyerbeer, who had composed a cantata in honour of the Queen, and in which among the performers were Liszt, Jenny Lind, Madame Viardot, Staudigl, and Pischek.

The journey of all the royalties up the Rhine to the king's castle at Stolzenfels, with its exquisite surrounding scenery, and the continuation of the journey by the Queen in the royal yacht to Mayence, completed the river voyage. At Mayence the Queen and Prince were met by Prince William of Prussia and his son-in-law Prince Charles of Hesse, and dined with Prince William at his residence *Das Deutsche Haus*. The Queen received a number of royal and other visitors on the following day, and among those introduced to her Majesty was Prince Louis of Hesse, "a very fine boy of eight—nice and full of intelligence." One of the persons who attended on the occasion—and the meeting must have had in it a humorous element—was Madame Heidenreich, née Charlotte Siebold, the lady who had been professionally present at the birth both of the Queen and Prince Albert, and had seen neither of them since.

The journey to Coburg was continued by road through Bavaria, where they were royally received, and travelled amidst

delightful and varied scenery. As they approached the Coburg frontier the Queen was agitated by the sentiments which were associated with the place, and the manner of the reception was calculated to add to her emotion. Duke Ernest came forth in full uniform to meet them, and sat with them in a carriage drawn by six horses; the people, all in holiday attire, the women wearing pointed caps and many petticoats, and the men jackets and leather breeches, were drawn up in lines to bid them welcome with hearty good-will. There were girls with wreaths of flowers, and under a triumphal arch the royal party drove to Ketschendorf, the house of the well-remembered name, the former abode of the dear old grandmother who, while she lived, had so loved the "little Mayflower." There they found "Uncle Leopold and Louise," who got into the carriage with them, Ernest mounting a horse and riding on the side of the carriage next the Queen, with Alvensleben on the other side, and the suite and a procession following. At the entrance of the town, the burgomaster almost broke down with emotion while addressing them, and young girls dressed in white with green wreaths and scarfs presented bouquets and verses. The picturesque old town was *en fête*, and at the palace, where more young girls threw wreaths into the carriage, the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess and Dowager-duchess of Coburg, and a staircase full of cousins awaited the honoured guests.

"It was an affecting but exquisite moment which I shall never forget," writes the Queen, and she was in the midst of a people who, of all people in the world, could appreciate and well interpret such sentiments as those that swelled her heart. There was a shade of sadness too in memory of the father of the Prince, who had so longed to welcome them at the old home, but there was a world of delight in visiting the various

places, each of which was the centre of numberless associations for the Prince and his brother: in dwelling at the Rosenau, and exploring the little upper rooms where the infant princes slept, and where the table on which they used to stand to be dressed remained with other plain and bare furniture. The whole atmosphere of the place, the charming woodland scenery so often described by the Prince, and the succession of simple yet striking and interesting excursions, outdoor fêtes, concerts, and delightful domestic festivities, sustained the charm that gave change and variety but also a certain spiritual familiarity to surrounding scenes. The crowning point of the pleasure was that the 26th of August, the birthday of Prince Albert, was celebrated at the place where he first "looked about him like a little squirrel."

Gotha had to be visited, where the other grandmother, the dowager-duchess, awaited the royal family party at her palace at Friedrichsthal. There also there was a popular welcome, and, still with a tender memory of recent bereavement, there were fêtes as simple but even more imposing than those at Coburg. There was the *Schützenfest*, the shooting-festival, with its procession of horsemen and of women and children in wagons hung with flowers and branches, and the *Liederfest*, the song-festival, where, in an enormous orchestra in the park opposite the castle, hundreds of voices sang fine German songs to the royalties who occupied a great tribune or pavilion. The "royalties" included a numberless throng of dukes, duchesses, princes, and princesses, who had come to pay their respects to the Queen of England. This and the great procession which they had witnessed at Coburg, when 1300 children of the schools paraded in quaint costumes and fancy dresses on the fête of St. Gregorius, and sang to the

Queen, and played and danced in a great meadow in front of two open garlanded tents where the royal party sat and dined—must have been among the best-remembered sights. As we read of this holiday, the air seems to be full of music and the odour of flowers, the scent of the pines in the glorious Thuringian forest, and the sounds of cheerful voices of a multitude of people occupied with changeful sport and the manifestation of homely affection and courtesy; amidst which we see the figure of the young Queen of England going here and there, sometimes to sketch a rustic group, or some pretty children, or a servant in a quaint dress; and we seem to be watching the Queen and Prince walking quietly alone together as they did on the afternoon of Albert's birthday, when they strolled along a path in the valley to see the haymakers.

But there came the time for parting, and farewells had to be said, and it was grievous, especially to the old grandmother at Gotha, who still called Albert her "angel child." There were more receptions and signs of hearty good-will on the journey back to the Rhine, but the holiday was then becoming only a dear and cherished memory and the faces of the travellers were turned towards home. The mother's heart was craving for her children. At Antwerp there were illuminations, and the town was gaily adorned; but there was no staying there; for French susceptibilities were in front again, and Louis Philippe had entreated that a flying visit should again be made to Tréport, off which the yacht arrived at nine o'clock on the morning of the 8th of September, and was immediately boarded by the king, Prince Joinville, Guizot, and the rest. Then there was landing in the king's barge, which, instead of going into the port, went outside, and the royal visitors had to be dragged over the sands in a bathing-machine, which the Queen says did very well, though she also

records that a number of poor men and women had to pull the boat up to the machine. The visit, at the Queen's request, was to be less ceremonious than the previous one, and the king said it was only a friendly call; but for all that the reception at the château was magnificent, and the whole company of the Opera Comique had been brought from Paris to give a dramatic entertainment in a temporary theatre in the grounds. Next evening the royal party re-embarked, the king and his gentlemen accompanying them on board. It was while Prince Albert was showing Joinville the smaller yacht—the *Fairy*—that his Majesty remained talking to the Queen and Lord Aberdeen. The conversation again turned, or was led by him, to the proposed Spanish marriages, and he declared that he never would hear of the marriage of Montpensier with the Infanta of Spain till it was no longer a political question, which would be when the Queen of Spain married and had children.

It had been a happy holiday indeed. "The recollections of the time spent in Saxony are engraven on my heart," the Queen wrote. "It was one of the happiest times of my life, and to recur to it will ever bring me the greatest happiness. I must be thankful for having been allowed to see what I hardly dared hope for." But there was happiness existing at home too, for amidst the mellow haze of an autumn afternoon the royal travellers landed at the beach at Osborne, and there, as they drove up to the house, stood the four rosy children ready with the dearest welcome in the world.

CHAPTER V.

The Queen and Political Events. Repeal of the Corn-laws. Birth of Princess Helena. Scinde. The Punjab. Spanish Marriages. Famine in Ireland. Abdication of Louis Philippe. Birth of Princess Louise. Chartist Meetings. Balmoral. Visit to Ireland. Birth of Prince Arthur. Great Exhibition. The Queen and Palmerston. Death of the Duke of Wellington. Birth of Prince Leopold. Napoleon III. War with Russia. The Queen in Paris. Birth of Princess Beatrice. The Victoria Cross.

The Queen on her return from the visit to Saxony found the ministry approaching a political crisis, Sir Robert Peel having already recognized the necessity for introducing a measure which would be one of the most important events in modern history.

The narrative contemplated in these pages is that of the life of Queen Victoria, and does not assume to be even an index or outline of the events which took place during her reign; but the decade which we now have to consider was marked by some great national and political events in which the Queen may be said to have been directly and personally concerned, and it will therefore be desirable to devote the present chapter to a brief record of them.

In May (1845) a great Free-trade Bazaar, under the auspices of the Anti-Corn-law League, was held at Covent Garden Theatre, where examples of various manufactures and productions were exhibited, and stalls for the sale of all kinds of useful and ornamental articles were presided over by a number of ladies. There were musical performances, speeches, and other attractions, and during the week that the bazaar continued it was visited by above 100,000 persons, and £25,000

was added to the funds of the League. Large sums had been contributed by commercial firms and private persons at the numerous meetings all over the country, and books, publications, pamphlets, and "fly-leaves" were distributed by the million.

Peel foresaw, notwithstanding the general distress, with the prospect of a poor harvest, that he would have a hard battle with his own ministry, and would certainly be deserted by protectionists if he proposed even the temporary opening of the ports and the free admission from abroad of the food for which numbers of the people were already starving.

But the door that had remained shut against political and popular demands was opened to the summons of famine. On the 13th of October Sir Robert Peel had avowed to Sir James Graham that the failure of the potato crop in Ireland was so alarming that the removal of impediments to the importation of corn would be the only effectual alleviation of impending want and misery. In Ireland pestilence was fast following famine, and it soon became evident that there should be no delay in opening the ports and distributing food.

Sir Robert Peel hesitated even amidst the outcry which now resounded through the country, for he knew that he would not be able to command unanimity in the cabinet, and he doubted whether he could obtain a majority in parliament. Lord John Russell, who was in Edinburgh, seized the opportunity of publishing a letter to the electors of the city of London, in which he declared that it was no longer worth while to contend for a small fixed duty, as the imposition of any duty, without a provision for its early extinction, would only prolong a contest already sufficiently fruitful of animosity and discontent. "Let us then," he said, "unite to put an end to a system which has proved to be the blight of commerce, the bane of agriculture,

the source of bitter divisions amongst classes, the cause of penury, fever, mortality, and crime among the people."

Peel had still been unable to move his colleagues. An order in council would have sufficed to open the ports, but even this was denied to him; and though nearly all the members of the cabinet had now come to his opinions, he could not make further efforts to adopt a policy which had been openly declared by his political rival. By some means a whisper had been conveyed to the editor of the *Times* on the 3d of December, that the cabinet, which had met that day, had been broken up by the opposition of Lord Stanley (afterwards Earl of Derby), and on the following morning a leading article in "the leading journal" commenced with the words, "The doom of the corn-laws is sealed." On the 5th of December Sir Robert Peel was at Osborne to place his resignation in the hands of the Queen. Her Majesty accepted it, but not without expressions of regret and approbation, which made it very painful for the minister to replace in her Majesty's hands the trust she had confided to him.

It cannot be wondered at that the Queen was most reluctant to part with Sir Robert, and it has been pretty well established that she earnestly desired the immediate reversion of those duties which prevented the relief of the wants of the people, so that we cannot wonder at her expression of pleasure when the failure of Lord John Russell to form a ministry, and the refusal of Lord Stanley and other dissentients to make the attempt, rendered it necessary to send for Peel and ask him to withdraw his resignation. On his entering the room at Windsor Castle her Majesty said to him, "So far from taking leave of you, Sir Robert, I must require you to withdraw your resignation and to remain in my service."

Though Sir Robert Peel had promised to do all in his power to support a Whig ministry in passing a reasonable measure for the admission of foreign corn, it was very doubtful whether even if that ministry had been formed it could have carried the repeal of the duties. The free-traders had begun to believe in Peel more than in Russell, and many of the Whigs were still obstinately bent on maintaining a small fixed duty. On the other hand, it was more than doubtful whether the House of Lords, and particularly Wellington, would have agreed to accept from a Whig ministry a measure to which the majority of them were bitterly opposed.

Therefore when Peel had succeeded in forming a ministry in which the place of Lord Stanley at the colonial office was taken by Mr. Gladstone, the satisfaction of the Queen was twofold. The minister for whom she had great respect, and in whose ability and integrity she had reason to place confidence, had resumed office, and the desired measure would be more likely to surmount the opposition with which it was threatened by the Protectionist party, whose titular leader was to be Lord George Bentinck, of whom Mr. Disraeli was the active and potent lieutenant. So high did party feeling rise that when Prince Albert, desiring to hear a fine debate, went to the House of Commons to listen to the introduction by Sir Robert of the financial policy which included the virtual abolition of the corn-laws, Lord George Bentinck, representing the extreme Tory party, said that the Prince "listened to ill advice . . . when he allowed himself to be seduced by the first minister of the crown to come down to the house to usher in, to give *éclat*, and, as it were, by reflection from the Queen, to give the semblance of a personal sanction of her Majesty" to the measure. This accusation, however, had little or no hold on the outside public. The conduct of the

Queen, her entire impartiality and frank but judiciously independent recognition of her own position amidst the strife of party and her sympathy with the crying needs of the country called forth general admiration even among those who were the exponents of what were called Radical opinions.

Peel maintained his lofty courage and calm determination amidst the storm of abuse with which he was assailed. He must have found support in the knowledge that the cry for free-trade in the article of food was to be found among starving agricultural labourers as well as amidst the artisans of manufacturing towns and the perishing peasantry of Ireland, and he was able to say, "I do not desire to be the minister of England, but while I am minister of England I will hold office by no servile tenure. I will hold office unshackled by any other obligation than that of consulting the public interest, and providing for the public safety."

On the 15th of May, 1846, the measure for the repeal of the corn-laws was carried in the House of Commons. A temporary nominal duty depending on prices was to be continued till 1849, when the duty was to be totally abolished. Practically the battle of free-trade in corn was won, and duties were repealed or reduced on other articles of food. Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, the latter having been returned to the House of Commons, spoke in terms of high and sincere eulogium of the minister who had the courage to uphold his convictions, in spite of the attacks of those who had once been his adherents, and in face of the certainty of being compelled to retire from office on some question on which parties at variance on the free-trade question would combine against him.

The measure had yet to pass the House of Lords, and that it did pass without prolonged opposition was greatly due to

the influence of Wellington, who remembered the lesson of the Reform Bill, and took up a similar position to that which he had then assumed. The old warrior knew well that capitulation was inevitable, and he was for coming out with all the honours of war. His principle still was, that to maintain the settled government of the country was of more importance than any measure whatever, and that useless resistance was unpatriotic and disloyal. "Bad opinion of the bill, my lord!" he said to a Protectionist peer; "you can't have a worse opinion of it than I have; but it was recommended from the throne, it has passed the Commons by a large majority, and we must all vote for it. The Queen's government must be supported."

The Anti-Corn-law League had done its work and its affairs were to be closed. At a meeting at the town-hall, Manchester, Richard Cobden addressed a great meeting of its leaders, where, speaking of Sir Robert Peel, he said, "If he has lost office, he has gained a country. For my part I would rather descend into private life with that last measure of his in my hand than mount to the highest pinnacle of human power." The proceedings were closed by three hearty cheers for her Majesty, to whom, Mr. Cobden reminded the meeting, they were under obligation, since the Queen had been said to have favoured their cause as one of humanity and justice.

Sir Robert Peel knew well that after the passing of the corn bill his government could not stand, nor did he contemplate making any effort to prolong its existence. It was defeated on a measure which had been introduced in the House of Lords by Lord St. Germains, and was down for second reading in the House of Commons on the very night that the corn bill had passed in the Upper House. That measure was a stringent Protection of Life and Property Bill, for the purpose of suppress-

ing conspiracies and seditious assemblies in Ireland, and for checking the alarming increase of assassinations and crimes of violence in that "distressful country."

Peel at once announced that he should retire from office, but while declaring that it was to Cobden, who, with untiring energy and from pure and disinterested motives had advocated their cause, that the success of the measures for repealing the tax on food must be attributed, he hoped that his own name would be remembered with expressions of good-will by men whose lot it was to labour and earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow, when they recruited their exhausted strength with abundant and untaxed food, the sweeter because it would no longer be leavened with a sense of injustice. When Peel left the house a great number of persons who awaited him outside stood bare-headed and in respectful silence to receive him, and many following at a short distance accompanied him to his own door.

The Queen had taken a few days' respite at Osborne early in the year, but the events of the session had demanded her attention. On the 25th of May, amidst anxieties with regard to foreign and home affairs, and the excitements of the parliamentary struggle, another daughter was born. The christening was deferred till the 25th of July, when it took place at Buckingham Palace, the infant princess being named Helena Augusta Victoria, the first name after that of her godmother, the widowed Hélène, Duchess of Orleans. Her Majesty had much desired the presence of the Queen of the Belgians, but political affairs detained her and the king at Brussels until some days afterwards, and the Duchess of Kent was sponsor for the Duchess of Orleans.

The announcement of the dissolution of the government was accompanied by the news that the long-disputed question between

this country and the United States as to the settlement of the boundary between British and American territory in Oregon had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The settlement was proposed by the United States government in such a friendly spirit towards England that Lord Aberdeen submitted a draft of a new convention which the American secretary of state accepted as the basis of a treaty regulating the rights of both countries, and fixing a boundary line between the English and American territory, the land to the north of the boundary belonging to Britain, and that to the south to the United States.

Sir Robert Peel had also been able to announce the termination of another conflict in India, where in 1845 the warlike Sikhs of the Punjab had commenced hostilities. The Afghan war and the barren occupation of Cabul had been followed by the outbreak of hostilities in various provinces in the north-west. The fighting began in Scinde, where a mixed population, consisting mostly of Mahometans, was under the rule of the ameers. In the autumn of 1842 Sir Charles Napier was sent to Scinde with troops as commander-in-chief. After negotiations had been carried on for some time, and even after a treaty had been signed, the ameers plotted against the British, and took the first opportunity for making an attack on the residence of the British commissioner, Major Outram, who, after a gallant resistance, was compelled to retreat. It should be remembered that the rulers of this territory had themselves taken it with the sword, and grievously oppressed the conquered people, and they were now seeking to take advantage of the recent strain upon British arms in Afghanistan to compel our troops to retire from the Indus. This they might have effected if they had known how to order their vastly superior force, or if a general of only ordinary ability had been in command of the British troops; but

Sir Charles Napier was more than a match for them. The ameers took up a position about five miles from Hyderabad, their capital, at a place called Meanee, where they were awaiting reinforcements when Sir Charles Napier attacked them with a force greatly inferior to theirs in numbers. The battle, which has been compared to that of Wellington at Assaye, resulted in a victory for the English achieved by sheer hard fighting and stubborn British valour. The consequence was that the country was annexed to the British possessions. Sir Charles Napier was appointed governor of the province of Scinde by Lord Ellenborough. Slavery was abolished, and all duties on transit were removed, the navigation of the Indus being made free. That battle of Meanee, with a less famous one fought a month later (March 1843), decided the conquest of Scinde; and the successful general was an excellent governor. It may be recalled that the three famous Napiers, William, George, and Charles, were known as Wellington's colonels, and all had scars and wounds as tokens of brilliant services. Their mother was that Lady Sarah Lennox (beloved of George the Third) to whom reference has been made in an earlier page.

No sooner had the conquest of Scinde been effected (though there were *repeated* troubles there because of the unhealthiness of the climate and the mutinous spirit of some of the Bengal native regiments) than we were at war with the Mahrattas, over whom a victory was gained by Sir Hugh Gough in a battle at Maharajpoor (Dec. 1843), which ended in the occupation of Gwalior. Lord Ellenborough, whose able but high-handed proceedings had provoked the accusations of some of the Whig leaders in parliament, and the jealousy or pride of the Court of Directors, was recalled, and Sir Henry Hardinge was sent out as governor-general. He began by promoting works of peace,

and his instructions were to avoid as far as possible any hostile attitude in the Punjab; but the Sikhs were a fighting people and their large army was well disciplined and provided. Their court or "durbar" was often a scene of drunkenness and debauchery, and it was said that the death of Runjeet Singh, the old "Lion of Lahore," had been accelerated by his habits of intoxication. The Punjab was in such an unsettled condition that the Sikhs saw that there must be war between them and the British, and as they had a great trained force ready for action, they commenced by crossing the Sutlej, thus violating the British frontier. Hardinge himself took up the sword, and Sir Hugh Gough, who was in command, hastened, with the aid of Sir Robert Sale, who had returned to India, and other officers to Moodkee, where their inferior force, faint and weary with a long march, nevertheless won a victory over the enemy (Dec. 1845). Sir Robert Sale and General M'Caskell were killed in this desperate engagement. Three days later a second battle was fought at Ferozeshahr, where the enemy was intrenched. Here again the British won a decisive victory, though their forces were greatly inferior in number to those of the Sikhs; but not till after a long and fierce struggle in which the losses on both sides were terrible. In January 1846, the Sikhs were again defeated at Aliwal; but it was not till 10th February, when they suffered a complete rout at Sobraon, that they resolved to surrender, and Golab Singh, one of Runjeet Singh's generals, was sent from Lahore to make terms, while the young Maharajah Duleep Singh went to the camp of the governor-general and made his submission, returning to Lahore with the governor and the victorious army who occupied the city.

Sir Henry Hardinge and Sir H. Gough, in reward for their services in the war, were raised to the peerage and received

large pensions, and Lord Dalhousie went to India as governor-general, and distinguished his career by the rapid introduction of improvements in public works, and the institution of railways, and a postal and telegraphic system.

Lord John Russell succeeded in forming a ministry in which both Lord Grey and Lord Palmerston held office, and the former having withdrawn his objections Palmerston became foreign minister. This appointment of Lord Palmerston was particularly distasteful both to Guizot and to Louis Philippe, whose Eastern plans the noble lord had formerly frustrated; and though, while Lord Aberdeen was in office, they might have hesitated (though probably they would not ultimately have abandoned their intention) to break all their promises with regard to the Spanish marriages, they now began to try to find an excuse for evading the repeated verbal engagements made at the Château d'Eu and on board the Queen's yacht.

This excuse they pretended to find in a despatch sent by Lord Palmerston to Mr. Bulwer in Madrid, concerning the question of the marriage of the young Queen of Spain and her sister the Infanta. In that despatch, which contained some Palmerstonian comments, the candidature of Prince Leopold was of course mentioned among other matters, and Guizot cunningly seized upon this to make a groundless representation that as England, contrary to the promises of Aberdeen, was favouring the pretensions of the German prince, the King of the French and his minister were absolved from their declarations. The whole pretence that this was the case appears to have been a plot in which the Queen-dowager Christina of Spain was also concerned; for it was believed that she had first promoted the candidature of the German prince for the purpose of misleading Europe to suppose that England was intriguing in his favour.

The marriages of Isabella of Spain, and her sister the Infanta, to Don Francisco d'Assis, Duke of Cadiz, and the Duc de Montpensier, were announced on the 29th of August, and the French prince stood nearest the succession if the young queen should have no children. It was said that her affections were really engaged by her cousin Don Enrique, the younger brother of Don Francisco, that the latter was very near to being an imbecile, and that the French king knew that no issue of the marriage was to be expected.

The whole affair was so base that Victoria was disgusted —the falsehood so marked that indignation almost overcame her grief that she should have been so deceived by a sovereign to whom she had held out both hands in friendship, and for whose family, and especially for his daughter, the Queen of the Belgians, she entertained a true affection. Unscrupulous as Louis Philippe had been, he must have felt how poor a figure he would now present, and with characteristic cunning he endeavoured to skip over the difficulty by causing his wife, the amiable Amélie, to write to Queen Victoria a friendly letter, dated 8th September, 1846, in which the passive if reluctant concurrence of her Majesty in the marriages there announced was cleverly suggested:

"This family event overwhelms us with joy, because we hope that it will ensure the happiness of our dear son, and that we shall find in the Infanta one daughter the more, as good, as amiable, as those who have preceded her, and who will add to our domestic happiness—the only true happiness in this world, and which you, madame, know so well to appreciate. I ask you, by anticipation, for your friendship for our new child, feeling sure that she will participate in all those sentiments of devotion and affection which we all feel for you, for the Prince Albert, and for all your dear family."

After some particulars of the occupations of the French royal family the letter continued: "I am charged by the king to offer his affectionate and respectful homage to yourself, and his kind regards to Prince Albert. He hopes you have received his letters, and that the peaches have arrived in good condition. All my children also request me to offer you their respectful remembrances. Pray present my kind regards to Prince Albert. Embrace for me all your dear children, and accept the expression of the affectionate and unalterable affection;" and so on.

That reference to the peaches was a touch of art quite in the style of Louis Philippe, and the letter was cunningly devised; but the Queen, though she might be grieved and her sentiments deeply wounded, was not to be bamboozled. She was too shrewd, and had too clear a knowledge of foreign policy, to fail to see that the indignation excited by the falsehood of the King of the French, influenced by his minister, would make it impossible to maintain such cordial relations as would indicate a close alliance between France and England.

In reply to the letter from the Queen of the French, her Majesty wrote: "I have just received your majesty's letter of the 8th inst., and I hasten to thank you for it. You will perhaps remember what passed at Eu between the king and myself; you are aware of the importance which I have always attached to the maintenance of our cordial understanding, and the zeal with which I have laboured towards this end. You have no doubt been informed that we refused to arrange the marriage between the Queen of Spain and our cousin Leopold (which the two queens had eagerly desired) solely with the object of not departing from a course which would be more agreeable to the king, although we could not regard the course as the best. You will therefore easily understand that the sudden announcement of

this double marriage could not fail to cause us surprise and very keen regret.

"I crave your pardon, madame, for speaking to you of politics at a time like this, but I am glad that I can say for myself that I have always been *sincere* with you."

The king was uneasy, and made attempts to justify his conduct in a long and elaborate letter, which he sent to the Queen of the Belgians, that it might be communicated to Victoria. He seemed to be aiming at the Queen's judgment through her sentiments; but her judgment was too sound to be affected in that way, and her straightforward reply put the whole case so clearly and concisely that it was unanswerable. The Queen said nothing that could prevent the maintenance of a policy of peace, and it was well that this was so, for the feeling not only of statesmen, but of the country, was one of indignation and disgust. Her Majesty and the Prince shared the opinion of those well versed in European affairs, who said that Louis Philippe had so injured his position that even in France he would lose the influence which he had been striving to acquire, while the severance of the support of England would leave him isolated in relation to other nations. "One cannot play small tricks with great countries," was the message sent to Guizot by Metternich; and it is possible that the great diplomatist foresaw that from that moment the King of the French held his own throne by a more uncertain tenure.

The first intelligence of the breach of faith reached the Queen while returning from the later of a series of yacht excursions from Osborne to Weymouth, Dartmouth and Plymouth, thence to Jersey (where the inhabitants were demonstrative in their loyalty), Falmouth, St. Michael's Mount, and the Duchy of Cornwall, where the little Prince of Wales was enthusiastically

received by the people, who cheered him to the echo as he was held up for them to see, crowds of fishing-boats, filled with the people of the coast, surrounding the yacht. The royal party (among whom was the old friend Stockmar) having made known that there was to be no conventional ceremonial, delightful visits were paid to various points of interest: her Majesty, the Prince, and some of the suite even exploring an iron mine, into which the Queen and the Prince were dragged in one of the trucks by the miners. The loyalty of the people of the duchy, both to the Queen and the two children, was conspicuous, and at Penrhyn the municipal dignitaries made their appearance on the royal yacht and begged to be introduced to "the Duke of Cornwall," upon which the Queen went on deck with the Prince of Wales, who was introduced to the people by Lord Palmerston; and the old mayor said with some emotion that he hoped the prince would grow up to be a blessing to his parents and to the country.

Amidst griefs and anxieties associated with the state and with the more regal or public life of the royal household, there was peace and happiness in the domestic retirement of home, and home in this sense had now come to mean the retreat at Osborne. The secret of this happiness there as elsewhere was constant occupation and a devotion to duty; but there, as sometimes at Windsor, the occupations could be those which were associated with the pursuits in which the Queen and the Prince delighted. There were the gardens and the plantations to design, the farm and aviaries and dairies to look to, there were books to be read and discussed, drawings and paintings to be studied, and amidst some cares of state which came into the daily duties, there was the teaching of the children, the pleasant recreations of family life, and a sustained calm cheerfulness which

OSBORNE HOUSE

Osborne House is a modern building, having been erected in 1845 from plans drawn by Prince Albert. The splendid estate in which it stands was purchased in that year by the Queen, she and the Prince desiring to have a country residence of their own, quite independent of the state, within easy reach of London, and yet with the advantage of retirement and the benefit of the sea air. The mansion is situated near Cowes in the Isle of Wight, and commands a very fine sea view. The beautiful grounds were laid out by the Prince himself, who delighted in landscape-gardening. It was at Osborne House that Queen Victoria died on 22nd January, 1901.

was the strong characteristic of the Prince. Their lives were happy in the truth and simplicity of mutual confidence and love.

The portion of the house at Osborne called the Pavilion, which was to be the dwelling of the royal family, was completed, and on the 16th of September was taken possession of for the first time; and Lady Lyttelton records that Miss Lucy Kerr, one of the maids of honour, following the old Scottish custom, threw an old shoe after the Queen as her Majesty entered; also that nobody smelt paint or caught cold. Everything in the house was quite new, and the drawing-room looked very handsome; the windows lighted by the brilliant lamps must have been seen far out at sea. After dinner the members of the household drank the health of the Queen and the Prince, who told them that in Germany there was a hymn of prayer for such occasions, and quoted in German from Luther's amplification of the last verse of the 121st Psalm as it appears in the Coburg *Gesang-Buch*. The lines of the hymn have been translated:—

"God bless our going out, nor less
Our coming in, and make them sure;
God bless our daily bread, and bless
Whate'er we do, whate'er endure:
In death unto his peace awake us,
And heirs of his salvation make us."

In the following year it was very satisfactory to know that the royal finances were so carefully attended to and so well managed, that though Osborne was to cost £200,000, the Queen would be able to provide for the whole expenses out of her revenue, and that out of the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall £100,000 had been saved. This is in Mr. Charles Greville's journal, and he professed to have heard it from Mr. Anson, secretary and keeper of the privy-purse to Prince Albert.

One effect of the breach of cordial relations between Louis Philippe and the British government was to weaken the probability of an Anglo-French alliance against high-handed proceedings of other great powers. Therefore Austria, Russia, and Prussia, whose allied forces had occupied Cracow after the suppression of a Polish insurrection in Silesia, took the opportunity to annex the city and territory in entire contradiction to the provisions of the Treaty of Vienna. By that treaty Cracow was to be a free and independent city under the protection of these powers. While France and England were believed to be in unison, and were known to agree in upholding the terms of the treaty, the town after the suppression of the insurrection was alternately occupied by Russian, Austrian, and Prussian troops. Soon this excited suspicion both in France and England, and Lord Palmerston had significantly said in Parliament that it was to be hoped "that the governments of Austria, Russia, and Prussia would recollect that if the Treaty of Vienna was not good on the Vistula it might be equally invalid on the Rhine and on the Po." These words may well have been remembered a few months afterwards, when the three powers, seeing that there was division between France and England, annexed Cracow and the adjoining territory to the empire of Austria, and stamped out the recognition of Polish nationality by revoking and suppressing the provisions of the treaty without consulting either the French or the British government. The flickering flame of Polish independence was trampled down, but in such a way that it gave a spark to that smouldering fire of insurrection which was soon to blaze all over Europe.

The Spanish marriages, on the achievement of which Guizot prided himself, were solemnized on the 10th October, 1846, but they proved to be calamitous to France, and before very long

had been added to the charges brought against the "Citizen King" and his grasping policy by the Reform party in France. Reform meetings and banquets, for promoting extension of the franchise and of popular liberties, were held in Paris and the large towns, and attempts to prohibit and to suppress them were futile, and incensed the people and the Republican leaders. The first low murmuring of another revolution was in the air.

In Portugal our former acquaintance, Queen Donna Maria, who, in 1836, had married Prince Ferdinand, younger son of the then reigning Duke of Coburg, had also fallen into trouble with her subjects by the despotism of her government, which drove the people to civil war and threatened anarchy. It was, strictly speaking, none of our business; but if we did not, to use a homely expression, have a finger in the pie, Spain undoubtedly would have a finger and thumb, for the Portuguese insurrection was at her very door, and France would undoubtedly have two fingers and a thumb employed, to show that she had a right on behalf of Spain as well as on her own account. Therefore, to continue the simile, we thrust in a hand up to the wrist. There were treaty obligations for it, and for some months all our representative at Lisbon did was to endeavour to mediate between the government and the insurgents, at the same time saying in plain terms that England would neither aid, nor permit other aid to be given to, a system of misgovernment.

Eventually a basis of negotiations by the British government was accepted, but not till the fleet of the Portuguese insurgents had surrendered on the summons of the British admiral, who was with the united fleet at Oporto, and the city had been invested by Spanish troops sent thither to co-operate with the other powers.

Throughout the period of European revolutions Palmerston

was unmistakably on the side of oppressed peoples and small states or nationalities crushed by larger powers who would not acknowledge "constitutional government," and the time soon came when, amidst the storm and wreck, Britain stood not only as a sheltering but as a vigorous protecting power on the side of what in British language were called constitutional liberties; and Palmerston was the representative statesman of a policy which it was believed, and for a time not without good reason, made this country (as the phrase went) "feared and respected" in Europe.

But Lord Palmerston, though he did not mean fighting, was (to borrow the language of the prize-ring, of which his lordship was something of a patron) always "putting his hands up" on even small provocation. At that time he regarded this country as the policeman of Europe, whose duty it was to do all that was possible to keep watch and to interfere against the encroachments and crimes of foreign governments.

There followed a period, however, when the dangers that are to be feared from such an attitude became serious. Palmerston's own personality was so inseparable from his policy that he was continually putting into despatches comments and opinions that were compromising to the Sovereign, and were not at all unlikely to embarrass, if not to entangle, the government. It was of course impossible that a foreign minister should be alone held responsible by foreign powers, and when it came to despatches and communications being forwarded to our representatives abroad without first being properly submitted to the Queen, so that both her Majesty and the prime-minister might be thoroughly acquainted with their contents and probable consequences, a crisis was sure to arise. Palmerston constantly increased the danger of being unnecessarily embroiled in a

quarrel, because of his desire to give the British constitution, with its restraints and liberties, to other nations. Prince Albert, with his usual acuteness, saw the weak point of Palmerston's policy at a very early date, just as he saw the feeble and futile sentimentalism of the King of Prussia, when that sovereign affected to form a constitution that would be acceptable to his people.

"I am strongly of opinion," he wrote to Stockmar, "that England should declare betimes, that it *will not endure* that independent states should be forcibly prevented from setting about such internal reforms as they shall think for their advantage. This appears to me the sound basis for us, placed as we are towards Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. We are frequently inclined to plunge states into constitutional reforms towards which they have no inclination. This I hold to be *quite wrong* (*vide* Spain, Portugal, Greece), although it is Lord Palmerston's hobby; but, on the other hand, I maintain that England's true position is to be the defence and support of states whose independent development is sought to be impeded from without."

The terrible condition of Ireland was the main topic of the Queen's speech on opening parliament on the 19th of January, 1847, and the low and sympathetic tones in which her Majesty referred to the distress of the Irish people showed that she was deeply affected. The horrible accounts of suffering from famine and fever had been increasing in intensity, and were only too fully endorsed by the facts laid before parliament. Before such general desolation of a people enfeebled by want and without resources, the government might have shrunk in dismay; and the public sympathy was wrought to a sense of anguish by narratives which, as Lord Brougham said, were not to be

exceeded by those scenes depicted in the pages of Josephus, or on the canvas of Poussin, or in the dismal chant of Dante. "A famine of the thirteenth had fallen upon a people of the nineteenth century," said Lord John Russell; and though both the government and organizations of benevolent persons made strenuous efforts to provide for the mitigation of the dreadful calamity, those efforts seemed for some months to be unavailing against the misery under which people, of whole villages and districts, died in the streets and the open fields, or crept to the nearest shelter of a hedge or a wall and perished of hunger and disease, till the corpses outnumbered the living, who were too feeble to give them burial, even by covering them with earth close to the places where they lay, or by conveying them uncoffined to the grave-yards.

A voluntary subscription for the relief of the famishing people had already commenced, the Queen heading the list with £2000, and the amount rapidly grew to a very large sum. Two millions of money had been advanced from the treasury to meet the distress, and half a million of men, who with women and children represented two millions, were living by employment provided by the Board of Public Works. At first these works included road-making and other labour which was not really required, and an almost insuperable difficulty arose because the wages tempted small farmers and agricultural labourers to desert the neglected unremunerative land, which was thus left untilled and altogether unproductive. The situation appeared to be desperate, and bills were passed in parliament for establishing immediate as well as permanent relief committees, with powers to receive subscriptions, levy rates, open soup-kitchens, and to use donations from the government in purchasing supplies of food, and distributing rations, and for promoting the employment of labourers to till

the land for their own support. When the prevailing destitution had been alleviated advances of money were to be made for the reclamation of waste lands, improving estates, and extending the provisions of the poor-law. The act which gave facilities for selling encumbered estates and bringing them into more profitable cultivation was not passed till the following year, when it had a considerable effect in putting an end to one of the remaining causes of depression, and restoring several districts to a better condition. Cargoes of wheat, meal, and Indian corn were rapidly despatched, and generous contributions of food were sent from the United States and from Turkey. Early in 1847 a million sterling a month was being expended, and out of 2049 electoral districts 1677 had been placed under the Relief Act, about three million rations of food had been given, and a hundred thousand sold daily, and in six months £54,439 had been received in money subscriptions. The suffering, however, had been appalling. In the union of Skibbereen, for instance, 11,000 persons (nearly the whole population) had perished; the deaths in the workhouse were 140 in one month. The general mortality of the country in 1847 was above three times greater than the average of the previous three years. Not only the corn but the potato crops had been utterly blighted, and on the potato the Irish peasantry had persistently relied for food. The corn crops had formerly yielded about two million quarters, and had mostly gone to England in times of high prices, or *war* prices. The potato was the staple for native support. Now there was neither, and the blight and consequent famine extended to the Highlands and western islands of Scotland, where, as in Ireland, the supply from hand to mouth having failed, the poverty-stricken people had no resources until food was sent to them. Great efforts were made when once the fearful need was

realized, and there was no half-heartedness in incurring future taxation or making subscriptions, though at that very time heavy commercial failures and panics were adding to the anxieties of the government and the people of London and the large towns. The calamities that followed reckless speculation and wild investments in railways were already being felt, and threatened alarming results. All this time, too, the efforts of the government and the people who were earnestly endeavouring to alleviate misery in Ireland were being retarded by those who endeavoured to incite the peasantry to crime and rebellion, and who prevented rather than aided the prompt distribution of food and the provision of labour by which the starving population could be made partially self-supporting. It was for this reason that a repressive act was passed, little less stringent than that previously prepared by Sir Robert Peel.

On the 15th of May, 1847, O'Connell, feeble, broken, and incurable, had died at Genoa on his way to Rome. He was seventy-two years old, and the men who succeeded him were those who had long spoken of him with contempt because he would not lead the Irish people into hopeless rebellion. It was not till the end of 1848 that the measures taken for relieving the distress had produced the hoped-for results, and that the condition of Ireland had been so much improved as to show comparative prosperity, but by that time the more violent of the leaders had discovered that they had not increased their influence and were unable to raise any large assemblies in the districts where they endeavoured to carry out their programme of inveterate animosity.

Early in 1847, the Queen, who always appreciated any honour bestowed on her husband, was greatly gratified by the election of Prince Albert as Chancellor of Cambridge University.

In July she was present at his installation, which was celebrated by a series of brilliant entertainments.

Her Majesty had decided to take another autumn journey in Scotland, but an excursion was first made down the Channel to Dartmouth, the Scilly Islands, which were visited, and Milford-haven, where the royal yacht anchored. While the two princes went in the *Fairy* to visit Pembroke the Queen remained on deck sketching, and pleasantly returned the greetings of the Welsh women who, wearing men's high-crowned hats, came out with the people that filled the boats, and cheered the Prince of Wales. In the *Fairy* the Queen and the Prince, with their children and suite, passed through the Menai Straits and under the wonderful bridge, and rejoined the squadron and the royal yacht at Holyhead the same evening. On the 16th of August they reached Rothesay Bay, whence an excursion was made to Greenock and up the Clyde to Dumbarton Castle. The tremendous loyalty of the people from Glasgow was embarrassing, for thirty-nine steamers were afloat loaded almost to the water's edge with sight-seers waiting to welcome her Majesty, and a vast flotilla of boats and sailing vessels were moving in all directions, but without getting out of the way.

The *Fairy* then took the royal party up Lochlong, and after returning went to Rothesay, where there were hearty cheers for "the Duke of Rothesay," one of the titles of the Prince of Wales. The voyage next day was past Arran by Lochfyne to Inverary, where a visit was paid to the Duke and Duchess of Argyle ("dear Lady Elizabeth Leveson Gower"), the royal carriage being preceded by pipers and guarded by Highlanders up to the house, outside which stood the Marquis of Lorne, "just two years old, a dear white, fat, fair little fellow, with reddish hair, but very delicate features, like both his father and mother . . .

a merry independent little child. He had a black velvet dress and jacket with a 'sporran,' scarf, and Highland bonnet." The royal yacht passed round the Mull of Cantire to Crinan Bay, where the royal party again embarked, after having steamed down Lochfyne in the *Fairy* to Lochgilp. From Lochgilphead they made the journey along the Crinan Canal in a superbly-decorated barge drawn by three horses with postilions in scarlet. At Loch Crinan they went on board the royal yacht, which next day took them to Oban and thence to Staffa, where the royal party entered the barge to visit the famous cave. "It was the first time that the British standard with a Queen of Great Britain and her husband and children had ever entered Fingal's Cave, and the men gave three cheers, which sounded very impressive there." Iona was also visited, and on the 20th the voyage ended at Fort William, whence the princes went to visit Glencoe. The royal party then travelled by land to Ardverikie, to which they were escorted by Lord Abercorn. The house was a comfortable shooting-lodge, built of stone, on "the remote and desolate but wildly beautiful Loch Laggan," then under a Scotch mist. Her Majesty remained here till the 17th of September, living in quiet fashion and visiting the points of interest amidst romantic and beautiful scenery. The return voyage from Fort William to the Isle of Man (Ramsay Bay) was made in very inclement weather, and on reaching Fleetwood harbour on the 21st a train was in readiness, and the royal party landed and travelled by railway to London.

Parliament met after the elections, and the Queen's speech was for the first time transmitted to the chief towns of the kingdom by electric telegraph. It may here be mentioned that in February of the following year an express train made a then astonishing journey from London to Glasgow in 10½ hours. In recording the result of the important application of elec-

tricity to the transmission of messages, it may not be out of place to refer to another discovery which from that date has been of incalculable benefit to humanity, and the practical value of which the Queen soon recognized. Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, had introduced the application of a new anæsthetic called chloroform, as a substitute for sulphuric ether in surgery and midwifery. The use of sulphuric ether as an anæsthetic appears first to have been brought here from Boston, in the United States, where it had been employed by Dr. Jackson and Dr. Martin in November, 1846, so that about the same period the endeavour to discover the means of alleviating or even of abolishing the pain attendant on what may be called crises of physical suffering was attended with success by two discoveries, both of which have remained in use.

In France the luxury and extravagance of the court, the vices of society, and the selfish grasping policy of the king, who in the matter of the Spanish marriages had too plainly shown that family aggrandizement was his ruling passion, had given emphasis to the demands of reformers, who had probably studied with advantage the effect of earnest moral combination as exemplified in the triumph of the Anti Corn-law League. But there was a vast substratum of the people who were ready for any violence which would avenge their supposed wrongs if it did not remedy the want and misery from which they suffered. When reform meetings were prohibited the organization which had called them together was too powerful to be resisted, and could command the situation; but they were also attended with elements of insurrectionary violence. The sudden roar of impending revolution came like a thunderclap, and the king was rudely awakened by the intimation that it had already begun to reverberate outside his palace, that he must instantly either call upon the troops to

suppress what might grow into a general insurrection, or that he must as promptly abdicate the throne. He chose the latter course rather than be responsible for a serious and sanguinary conflict. He was no coward, and did not lose his self-possession. Schemer and diplomatizer as he was, there was a foundation of honour and nobility deep down in his character, and he acted with consistency and moral courage, declaring that he had always been a pacific sovereign; that he had been chosen by the people, and that he would resign his power rather than shed their blood. His conduct amazed those who believed that if he had firmly repelled the demands of the insurgents, or answered them with bullet and bayonet, he might have saved the throne, which it was his duty to preserve. With some calmness, and not without dignity, he wrote and signed an abdication, leaving the throne to his grandson and heir, the Comte de Paris, eldest boy of the widowed Hélène, Duchess of Orleans. She and all his family, then in Paris, would have dissuaded him, and the duchess with no little courage took the children with her to the Assembly, where some friends protected her; but it was too late, and she with the rest of the royal household of France was compelled to make a hurried escape across the frontier in carriages, which appeared to have been provided for the purpose. No violence was offered them; but there were unmistakable signs that they must depart, and the thoughts of the king and queen, as well as their children, naturally turned to England, where other refugees from the tyranny of rulers, or from the fury and threatened vengeance of the overruled, had already found an asylum.

On the 16th of February (1848) Prince Albert had written to Stockmar: "I may not conceal from you that Paris at this moment is causing us *extreme* anxiety. Louise Philippe and

Guizot show great political boldness, but they have taken their stand entirely upon the old Bourbon *terrain*. The beginning of the change, and it may be the determining momentum, I still hold to have been the Spanish marriage."

On the evening of the 24th of February, while the House of Commons was sitting, a murmur of conversation was heard at the door, and spread through the assembly. Intelligence had arrived of the flight of Louis Philippe, and of the proclamation of a republic in France. Mr. Cobden was sitting beside Mr. Hume when the tidings reached their bench. Sir Robert Peel was on the opposite front seat alone, his powerful party having been broken and scattered by his great measure of corn-law repeal. Mr. Hume went to tell the news to Sir Robert, who, when he had listened to the startling intelligence, said: "This comes of trying to carry on a government by means of a mere majority of a chamber without regard to the opinion out of doors. It is what these people (pointing with his thumb over his shoulder to the Protectionists behind him) wanted me to do, but I refused."

It may be mentioned here that Lord George Bentinck, who had been antagonistic to the proposal for the admission of Jews to parliament, had retired from the leadership of his party. In the following September he died suddenly, and Mr. Disraeli became the acknowledged, as he had long been the virtual leader.

The insurrection in Paris had not been "bloodless." There was a fearful conflict between the troops and the mob, on whom they fired, the accidental discharge of a gun having led to the attack. The National Guard—that body of civic soldiers which had been formed by the "citizen" king—joined the popular demonstration and disarmed the Municipal Guard, to prevent them from dispersing the people. Barricades were erected,

where there was desperate fighting, and numbers of their defenders were slain, the dead bodies being carried through the city on wagons by the insurgents for the purpose of rousing the people.

In the midst of the anxieties caused by these events the Queen and Prince Albert received the sad intelligence of the unexpected death of the Dowager-duchess of Gotha, from whom they had parted while on their visit to Germany. "It is impossible to have known her," said the Princess of Hohenlohe in a letter to the Queen, "and not to have loved and venerated her; but I also know what she was to dearest Albert, and how he will lament her loss." He did feel it keenly, and the general condition of affairs distressed him. On the 29th of February his letter to the Dowager-duchess of Coburg showed a more disturbed mind than was usual with him: "What dismal times are these! I cannot give full way to my own grief, harassed as we both are with the terrible present. You also will be in deep distress. Augustus, Clémentine, Nemours, and the Duchess of Montpensier, have come to us one by one like people shipwrecked; Victoire, Alexander, the king, the queen, are still tossing upon the waves, or have drifted to other shores: we know nothing of them. France is in flames; Belgium is menaced. We have a ministerial, money, and tax crisis; and Victoria is on the point of being confined. My heart is heavy."

The situation was, however, less serious than he feared, Louis Philippe and Amélie had reached Trouville, where, on the 2d of March, they took a passage on the express steamer at Havre under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, which not one Frenchman in a thousand could have pronounced. On the following morning they landed at Newhaven. Claremont was placed at the disposal of the royal fugitives, and there they were

afterwards visited by the Queen, who maintained the kindly friendship which she had always felt for the Orleans family, though she had certainly been grossly deceived by the king and his minister Guizot, who also escaped to England, though there is reason to believe that England would have been betrayed by the government of Louis Philippe had not the revolution blown all their schemes into the air. It was afterwards known that Russia, Prussia, and Austria, alarmed by the encouragement given by England to constitutional movements for obtaining civil and religious liberty, sought to isolate her from European affairs. In Count d'Haussonville's *Histoire de la Politique*, published in 1850, the suspicion that this had been the case was confirmed. "The great powers of Europe intimated to France their desire to enter into a combination with her to the exclusion of England. Our cabinet had accepted their overtures; a day was appointed (the 15th of March) to give a definite and conclusive form to arrangements which had already been discussed."

Lamartine, who had been elected minister of foreign affairs in the government of the new French republic, notified to foreign ambassadors in Paris that the new leaders had neither changed the place of France in Europe nor her loyal and sincere disposition to maintain relations of true harmony with powers who like herself desired the independence of nations and the peace of the world. The foreign ambassadors remained at their posts till they received instructions from their governments. Lord John Russell immediately announced that England would not interfere in any way with the internal affairs of France, and Lord Palmerston directly afterwards stated in the House of Commons that Great Britain had officially recognized the French provisional government.

Lamartine understood England, and the constitutional support which it had given to the efforts being made by political reformers in other nations, and the republican ministry was desirous to form a friendly alliance. Some members of the "Irish Confederation," with Mr. Smith O'Brien at their head, soon afterwards went as a deputation to Paris, supposing that the provisional government might be induced to support their demands; but Lamartine knew well, as the leaders of the "Irish Confederation" also knew, that such doings as theirs would not be tolerated by any government in Europe, and certainly not by that of America. He therefore warned them not to expect the republic to interfere in Irish grievances, as it wished to be on good terms not with this or that part of Great Britain, but with Great Britain entire.

On the 18th of March the announcement was made that the Queen had given birth to a daughter, and that mother and child were perfectly well. The Prince had soon recovered his usual firm and cheerful bearing, but he had feared that the Queen might suffer from the shocks of recent events. Her Majesty had, however, given no reason for these anxieties. Her courage and cheerfulness were as conspicuous as his own, though she was acquainted with all the serious occurrences of the time, and her only thoughts and conversation seemed to be of politics; "but I never was calmer, quieter, or less nervous," she wrote to her uncle. "Great events make me calm; it is only trifles that irritate my nerves."

The ceremony of the christening of the infant princess took place in the private chapel which had been built at Buckingham Palace, where she received the names of Louise Caroline Alberta, the first name being that of the mother of Prince Albert and of the Queen of the Belgians. A chorale composed

THE FOUR PRINCESSES

This plate, from a picture by Winterhalter, shows the four daughters of Queen Victoria in childhood. The Princess Royal, the eldest child, who was born on 21st November, 1840, married the Crown Prince of Prussia, who became Emperor Frederick of Germany. Princess Alice, born 25th April, 1843, married Prince Leopold, afterwards Duke of Hesse, died 14th Dec., 1878. Princess Helena, born 28th May, 1846, was married on 15th July, 1866, to Prince Frederick Christian, Charles of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg. She is known as Princess Christian. Princess Louise, the Duchess of Argyll, was born on 18th March, 1848, and was married on 22nd May, 1871, to the Marquis of Lorne, who, in 1900, became Duke of Argyll, on the death of his father.

by the Prince some years before was adapted to the hymn "In Life's Gay Morn," to be sung on the occasion; and as the ceremony took place in the month of the birthdays of the Queen and of the little Princess Helena, there was a state banquet and some quiet court festivities, which, though nothing of the kind could be regarded by such kindly hosts as merely conventional, were probably less gay than usual, since the burden of public affairs, and foreign as well as domestic troubles, pressed somewhat heavily.

Metternich had prophesied that England would have the last and the worst revolution, because of the wealth of the country, the freedom allowed to all classes, and the recklessness of the poor; but Metternich could only see with his own eyes, and he had not learned to contemplate the English character and constitution. There was much distress here, much suffering, poverty, and destitution. There had been a serious commercial panic, gigantic business failures, much depression of trade, and notorious instances of oppression on the part of employers of labour in certain branches of industry. Men of high culture and profound religious feeling, including some of the clergy who agreed with Charles Kingsley, espoused the cause of the people and gave vivid expression to their sentiments, and a powerful, plaintive voice to their sufferings; but the overhanging cloud was electric with the sheet-lightning that purifies and illuminates, and not with the bolt that carries ruin and devastation. There was, as might have been expected, an endeavour to revive "Chartism" as a power, but it had fallen into the hands of poor and ill-informed men, who were advocates of physical force; and though there was enough of organization to devise futile plans for riotous meetings and acts of destruction, the demonstrations received no considerable or sustained

support. The government being acquainted with all that went on at the secret meetings at places where, in two or three instances, arms had been concealed, several arrests were made. It was known too that a plan had been devised for a simultaneous rising in some of the large towns and in London, and there were dark threats of preparation for setting fire to public buildings; but these intentions were promptly frustrated. A good deal of fiery writing and speaking by eminent persons passed unnoticed, while, unhappily, a few poor and ignorant orators, who spoke sedition on Clerkenwell Green or Trafalgar Square, were sent to jail for various terms.

As a result of "the state of Europe" and the "condition of Ireland," to relieve which distressful country we had, in the midst of our own needs, contributed a few millions sterling, there was perhaps a little too much police interference occasionally; and a Crown and Government Security Bill was passed, contrary to the opinions of a good many constitutional politicians; but the "National Convention," as the Chartist leaders called their movement, was sufficiently troublesome and threatening to warrant precautions against serious attempts. Therefore when a great demonstration was announced to be held on Kennington Common on the 10th of April, the authorities were prepared; the Duke of Wellington had troops ready to protect the principal public buildings, but not a soldier was to be seen, and a large body of police was stationed not far from the part of the common where the meeting was held. They had little or nothing to do; for though some of the Chartist speakers used rather truculent language, and professed to long for a conflict, the proceedings were on the whole quiet and unexciting. There were only about 25,000 persons present, and probably half of that number had gone out of curiosity. The real demonstration

was not that of the Chartists, but of the quarter of a million of the inhabitants of the metropolis belonging to all classes, who presented themselves to be sworn in as special constables for the protection of London while the police were on duty at Kennington.

The two leaders of the Chartists, Mr. Feargus O'Connor and Mr. Bronterre O'Brien, had quarrelled on the question whether those attending the meeting should go armed; and, happily, Mr. O'Connor, who was one of the members in parliament for Nottingham, and was certainly touched with insanity, was rational enough to insist that the original intention of making only a demonstration of moral force should not be altered. After various speakers had addressed the meeting, and in some cases vilified and denounced each other, Sir Richard Mayne, who was chief of the police, appeared on horseback, and riding towards a highly-decorated car occupied by the leading orators, sent for Mr. Feargus O'Connor to confer with him. The Chartist leader had the good sense to accede to the invitation, and the result was that the meeting dissolved peaceably, and a monster petition in favour of the "Charter," which occupied a second car, was conveyed in a cab to the House of Commons, there to be presented in due form.

At Glasgow there had been a riot of so serious a character that it nearly approached to an insurrection, and was believed to be a signal for a general rising in the towns of the west of Scotland; but the citizens had combined to suppress it, and were assisted by the armed pensioners and a body of cavalry, which arrived under the direction of Mr. (afterwards Sir) Archibald Alison, the historian, who was sheriff of Lanarkshire. In Edinburgh and in several of the manufacturing towns in the north of England there were riots, which were

only suppressed by the determination of the general community that law and order should go hand in hand with liberty in the national progress. Amidst all this alarm and excitement the Queen did not doubt—she had no reason to doubt—the loyalty of the country; but both she and Albert were deeply concerned at the poverty and distress under which numbers of the labouring population were suffering. The practical improvement of the condition of the labouring classes had long been a matter of sincere interest to the Prince, and for four years he had held the position of president of the society formed with that object, under the active promotion of Lord Ashley (afterwards the Earl of Shaftesbury) and others. On the 18th of May he attended a meeting of the society with the express desire of urging its claims, and expressing in vigorous language his belief in the duty of rendering practical assistance and counsel in promoting well-directed exertion for mutual assistance without dictatorial interference with labour or ostentatious display of charity or munificence.

Parliament had been sitting for ten months when it was prorogued by the Queen on the 5th of September. The occasion was an important one, for the brilliant ceremony was held in the new House of Lords, which had only just been completed. A vast crowd awaited the Queen as she passed, and the demonstrations of loyal affection seemed to be intended to show that amidst all the dangers and threats of rebellion she reigned in the hearts of her people. With the emphasis which she knew so well how to employ, the Queen acknowledged the faithfulness of the country to herself and to the constitution.

There was time for a brief holiday, and her Majesty, with the Prince, the two elder children, and the little Prince Alfred, who had been ailing, made a voyage to Aberdeen, whence they

went to visit Balmoral, which had been strongly recommended by Sir James Clark as a locality possessing charming scenery, and that dry and bracing air which was found to be more beneficial in restoring the health of the Queen and the Prince than the more humid atmosphere of the Western Isles.

Nothing could have been more suitable than this place because of the sandy or gravelly soil of the Lowlands, as well as of the hills, while the whole of Deeside, from Charleston of Aboyne to Castleton of Braemar, was one of the driest districts of Scotland, Balmoral being the most favourable spot in the valley. The lease of the Balmoral estate had fallen into the hands of the Earl of Aberdeen on the death of his brother, Sir Robert Gordon, in 1847; but so delighted were the Queen and the Prince with the place that they acquired first the lease and afterwards (from the Earl of Fife) the fee simple of the estate. The little castle built by Sir Robert Gordon was of granite, white-washed, and with several small turrets, and was situated upon a rising ground surrounded by birch wood near the river Dee, which flowed at the back of the castle. "Looking down from the hill which overhangs the house," writes her Majesty, "the view is charming. To the left you look at the beautiful hills surrounding Lochnagar, and to the right towards Ballater to the glen (or valley) along which the Dee winds with beautiful wooded hills. . . . It was so calm and so solitary, it did one good as one gazed around, and the pure mountain air was most refreshing. All seemed to breathe freedom and peace, and to make one forget the world and its sad turmoils."

There was not much opportunity of forgetting, however, even for the fortnight that the visit lasted, for, as we have seen, the world seemed to be turned upside down, and the news and despatches from all quarters still occupied the Queen's earnest

attention. It had been a troublous year, and the Prince said, "One is heartily glad to say good-bye to it." One of the latest sorrows that belonged to it was the death of Lord Melbourne on the 24th of November. Only two days previously (November 22nd) the British forces had suffered a slight defeat in the Punjab, where the second Sikh war had broken out. A later battle at Chillianwallah (January 1849), though claimed as a victory by Lord Gough, was so indecisive as to give rise in England to some condemnation of the commander-in-chief, in consequence of which the government resolved to send out Sir Charles Napier, who was at home in ill health, to take the command in the Punjab. Before his arrival, however, the war had been brought to an end by the complete defeat of the Sikhs in the battle of Goojerat (February 21st), soon after which the Punjab was annexed to the British dominions.

On the 19th of May the Queen was again fired at as she was returning down Constitution Hill to Buckingham Palace in an open carriage with three of her children. Her Majesty did not lose her presence of mind; but, motioning for the carriage not to stop, talked to the children to engage their attention. The Prince, who was riding in advance, was unaware of what had happened, but the culprit was seized by the crowd, from whom he had to be rescued by the police, or he would have been beaten to death. He was an Irish labourer named William Hamilton, and it is to be supposed that he only intended an alarming demonstration, as the pistol had evidently been charged only with powder. He was tried, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced, under the act of 1842, to seven years' transportation. The Queen never regarded these attempts as any indication of danger in going freely among her people, and it was the earnest wish both of her Majesty and Prince Albert to pay a visit

to Ireland. It was determined that the journey should be made early in August; but both the Queen and Prince Albert were strongly of opinion that the general distress in the country would make it undesirable to draw on the imperial resources for this purpose. It was therefore made known that the royal party, which would include the four elder children, would pay an unceremonious visit, and that the voyage would be made as a yachting excursion for visiting Cork, Waterford, Dublin, Wexford, and Belfast, and thence to Glasgow on the way to Balmoral.

On the evening of the 2d of August the royal yacht and its attendant squadron anchored in the Cove of Cork. The signs of hearty and delighted welcome blazed in bonfires on the surrounding heights. On the following morning, as the Queen landed at Cove, the clouds which had been hanging gray and heavy were broken by a brilliant burst of sunshine, and the new name of Queenstown was conferred on the place amidst bright and cheerful associations. The journey in the *Fairy* up the river Lee to Cork was accompanied by wild shouts of welcome from the people assembled upon the banks, the firing of guns, the ringing of bells, and every expression of a loyalty which had already filled the streets and every window and balcony of the town with a delighted crowd, all cheering at their loudest.

The multitude that surrounded the royal carriage were "noisy, excitable, but very good-humoured, running and pushing about, and laughing, talking, and shrieking;" and the Queen further observed, "The beauty of the women is very remarkable and struck us much; such beautiful dark eyes and hair, and such fine teeth." At Waterford the reception was just as enthusiastic, and when on the evening of the 5th the royal squadron entered the harbour of Kingstown, the scene was very imposing. Yachts,

boats, steamers, laden to the water's edge with eager crowds, had awaited the arrival of the royal party before they reached the harbour, and "the wharfs where the landing-place was prepared were densely crowded; altogether it was a noble and stirring spectacle."

At ten next morning the Queen and the Prince landed, the men-of-war in harbour saluting, ladies as well as men cheering with all their might, men wedged in a dense mass, yet finding room to wave anything that could be waved, hat, stick, wand, or coat (for it was a hot day), and shouting greetings with undiminished energy till her Majesty had reached the railway, by which the royal party quickly reached Dublin. The sight of the Queen's children touched the warm Irish hearts, and a stout old lady gave voice to the general emotion when she screamed: "Oh! Queen dear, make one of them Prince Patrick, and all Ireland will die for you." The route to the viceregal lodge in Phoenix Park was one scene of exuberant and unbroken loyalty, the very roofs and house-fronts were alive with people; even the suburban hedge-rows were gay with flags, the poorest cottages were hung with humble wreaths and evergreens; it was, as the Queen said, a never-to-be-forgotten scene.

The enthusiasm remained unabated during the stay of the Queen in Dublin, and the observances were of a mingled stately and unconventional character. Institutions were visited, and the National Model Schools, where her Majesty was received by the venerable Dr. Murray, the Roman Catholic archbishop, and by the Archbishop of Dublin, greatly interested both the Queen and the Prince as a successful endeavour to promote education irrespective of the doctrinal differences of creed. There was a *levée* where four thousand persons were presented, and a review in the Phoenix Park, after which the Prince

AN IRISH FAREWELL, KINGSTOWN

AUGUST, 1849

Queen Victoria visited Ireland in 1849, 1853, 1861, and again, after a long interval, in 1900, within a year of her death. Shortly before the last visit she showed her appreciation of the gallantry of the Irish regiments in the South African War by ordering Irish soldiers to wear the shamrock on St. Patrick's Day, and by recommending the formation of an Irish Regiment of Foot Guards. On the 2nd of August, 1849, the royal party landed at Cove of Cork, which was renamed Queenstown in memory of the occasion and in honour of her Majesty. From Queenstown the party proceeded to Cork amidst great enthusiasm, and at Waterford, Kingstown, and Dublin the reception of the distinguished visitors was no less enthusiastic. The picture shows the scene at the departure of the royal party from Kingstown *en route* for Belfast and Glasgow.



• A IRISH FAREWELL, KINGSTOWN, AUGUST, 1849 •

FROM THE DRAWING BY WAL PAGET

visited the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal Dublin Society, of which he was a vice-patron. After a speech acknowledging in cordial terms the manifestations of loyalty which had greeted the Queen and himself, he examined the show of cattle and agricultural implements, on which he made some practical remarks respecting the rearing of cattle and the improvement of breeding stock as the best prospects for agricultural prosperity in Ireland.

A drawing-room was held at the castle in the evening, and next day there was a visit to the Duke of Leinster at Carlow. When the royal visitors re-embarked at Kingstown the scene of the landing was repeated, or even exceeded, and as the packet passed the extreme point of the pier inclosing the harbour, the vast crowd gathered there sent up such a cheer that the Queen climbed the paddle-box on which Prince Albert was standing and waved her handkerchief, at the same time giving orders to slacken speed. The paddles scarcely moved, and by its own impetus the vessel glided slowly on close to the pier and far beyond it, every eye of that vast shouting multitude fixed on the figure of the Sovereign, who still stood waving thanks and farewells. The royal standard was three times lowered in salute to a loyal people.

It may well be believed that the people of Belfast were no less warmly demonstrative than those of the south, and though only a few hours could be devoted to the visit there was time enough to show how heartily that brief visit was appreciated. The royal party then continued their voyage to Glasgow, where the whole of the inhabitants were ready to give them a brilliant reception as they passed in a kind of triumphal procession through the principal streets, where from five to six hundred thousand people awaited them.

The year closed sadly. At Osborne on the 9th of October Prince Albert received the news of the sudden death of Mr. Anson, his private secretary, who had been so deservedly respected by the Queen and the Prince that their mourning for him induced them to remain for some days in partial retirement. On the 30th the Queen was to have opened the new Coal Exchange, but was prevented from doing so by an attack of chicken-pox. Her disappointment was much increased by the fact that this was the first state occasion on which the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal were to be brought into notice, but Prince Albert officiated for her Majesty, and with the two children and the suite embarked at Westminster in the royal barge, rowed by twenty-seven boatmen, and afterwards preceded by the lord-mayor's barge, and accompanied by a superbly decorated flotilla conveying attendants in rich liveries, and a distinguished company in court attire. The streets were thronged, bells rang, guns fired, bands played. The assembly at the building was a brilliant one, and the little prince was made of no small importance; everything was successful, and the ceremony was performed with great *éclat*, but through it all Prince Albert was depressed with the thought that the good Dowager Queen Adelaide lay at "the Priory" at Stanmore sick unto death. She lingered for some time, but in the last week of November the Prince accompanied the Queen to make what was to be their last visit to her. On the 2d of December she died. "A great loss to us both," wrote Victoria to King Leopold, "and an irreparable one to hundreds and hundreds. She is universally regretted, and the feeling shown is very gratifying. Her last moments were, thank God, very peaceful. . . . Poor mama is very much cut up by this sad event, and to her the queen is a great and serious loss. The dear queen has left the most

affecting directions (written eight years ago) for her funeral, which she wishes to be as private as possible. She wishes her coffin to be carried by sailors, a most touching tribute to her husband's memory, and to the navy to which she was so much attached!"

The Queen, in addition to other troubles, was suffering some anxiety on account of her husband, on whose health the increasing burden of work which he had cheerfully undertaken was evidently having an injurious effect. From a little after daylight, and in the winter long before daylight, he was busy in preparing the official business of the day, and when the number of his engagements, his responsibilities as head of the royal household, and his active practical interest in the promotion of education and works of benevolence are all considered, it is surprising that he could find time for those lighter graces and recreations of life which he enjoyed when he found that he could do so without neglecting anything that he considered to be his duty. When it is mentioned that Lord John Russell, writing to him in June, 1849, said that during the previous year 28,000 despatches were received or sent by the foreign office, it may be concluded, as these had to be seen and considered by the Queen, that the work in relation to them must have been very serious; and it may be supposed that many of them were of sufficient importance to require memoranda or letters to be written or consultations to be held on the subjects to which they referred.

The change to the pure air and healthy exercise at Balmoral; the rest, retirement, and congenial occupations at Osborne, were of incalculable benefit to the Prince, but they were necessarily brief, for, in addition to all his other work, he had undertaken the direction of an enterprise which required his constant presence in or near London, and his almost unremitting attention.

The story of the Great International Exhibition of 1851 and its palace of glass has been so often told that there is no need to repeat it in detail. An exhibition of art, industry, and scientific inventions was not a new thing in the world. The Frankfort fairs of the sixteenth century doubtless afforded a suggestion to modern times, and in Paris there had been periodical "expositions" from the time of the first consulate. The latest of these had been held quite recently, where examples of the manufactures and art industries of France were displayed, and attracted many visitors from other countries. But to Prince Albert belonged the chief credit of originating and developing the idea of an international exhibition that should include the latest and most significant productions of every country in the civilized world, in raw material, manufactures, mechanical and scientific inventions and appliances, the arts, and above all, in art manufactures.

The Prince had carefully thought out a scheme before he submitted his proposal to the government, and finding that it was favourably received he communicated with some leading members of the Society of Arts at a meeting at Buckingham Palace. So completely had he considered the aim and probable results of the exhibition, the site which would be most appropriate for it in Hyde Park, and the objects to be displayed, that no material alteration of his plans was suggested.

The first steps to be taken were to discover how the project would be received by the manufacturers and inventors of the kingdom, and whether the international character of the exhibition would be practically recognized by continental states. With regard to the former it was soon apparent that the scheme was warmly appreciated, and that no feeling of jealousy or seclusion would prevent the discoverers of scientific processes or the inventors of industrial machinery from sending the best and newest productions.

On the Continent, France, which had gone through a rapid series of struggles, had taken the first opportunity of restoring a settled government. With certain modifications history was there repeating itself. After the revolution which had dethroned Louis Philippe, there were violent insurrections against the rule of the provisional government, with the result that there was a general desire to settle the republic on secure grounds. When the elections came on in December, 1848, Charles Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was chosen as president by an enormous majority of votes. He had long been known by a good many people in London, where he had lived as a refugee for some years, and his dreamy and taciturn manner, his fixed conviction that in him the Napoleonic prestige would be restored, his theatrical and futile attempts to make a demonstration at Strasbourg and Boulogne, and his very easy escape from imprisonment at Ham after the second offence, had caused him to be regarded with speculative curiosity by those who were acquainted with him. He had been in Paris soon after the proclamation of the provisional government, but returned to England, seeing that he was suspected of being in France for the purpose of creating disorder. He had, as everybody has been told, attended to be sworn in as a special constable on the occasion of the Chartist meeting, and that was the last that was heard of him until by five million and a half of votes by the departments he was placed at the head of the French government.

The Queen and Prince Albert had heard the news at Balmoral on the 24th of September, and saw its significance. A year after we find Lord Normanby, our ambassador in Paris, writing to say that the prince president was delighted with the proposal to hold a great international exhibition in London, and that he would do all in his power to secure its success so far as

France was concerned, a promise which was afterwards well kept. Some other foreign powers also responded with encouraging appreciation of the magnitude of the enterprise, and our colonies (the Australian colonies were then about to receive a regular and complete constitution) as well as the East India Company could be looked to with confidence. The inventors, manufacturers, and artists of the chief countries of Europe were willing to exhibit, and sent examples of their choicest productions. The people of foreign states were already manifesting curiosity, and, as the event proved, were prepared to come in large numbers to see "the world's show," but most of the rulers of the larger states looked askance at the project, and would neither take any personal part in it by being present, nor otherwise give it much encouragement. They had a notion that among the large numbers of the people who would take this opportunity to visit England, there would be many who would be impressed, not only by the great exhibition, but by our liberal institutions and the freedom enjoyed by the population under a constitutional government.

It was early in 1850, while Prince Albert was busy with plans for the projected Exhibition, that the proposal, already referred to (p. 2), that he should succeed the Duke of Wellington as commander-in-chief of the British army, was made to him by the Duke himself, who seems to have had the plan deeply at heart. The Prince felt the proposal to be "a tempting offer for a young man;" but after serious consideration he declined it for reasons which the Duke found convincing.

On the 1st of May (1850) the birth of another son (now the Duke of Connaught) was announced from Buckingham Palace; and the good news that the Queen and the infant prince were both well was communicated by Prince Albert to the Dowager-

duchess of Coburg: "I congratulate you to-day on the birth of a seventh grandchild, and expect in return good wishes from you on the birth of a third son. This morning, about a quarter past eight, after rather a restless night (being Walpurgis night that was quite appropriate), while the witches were careering on the Blocksberg (under Ernst Augustus' mild sceptre), a little boy glided into the light of day, and has been received by the sisters with *jubilates*. 'Now we are just as many as the days in the week,' was the cry; and then a bit of a struggle arose as to who should be Sunday. Out of well-bred courtesy the honour was conceded to the new-comer."

The 1st of May! It was the Duke of Wellington's eighty-first birthday; and what greater token of regard could the royal parents give to the old guardian of the honour of Britain—the faithful, loyal, and devoted friend—than to name the prince after him. "It is a singular thing," wrote the Queen, "that this so much wished-for boy should be born on the old duke's eighty-first birthday. May that and his beloved father's name bring the poor little infant happiness and good fortune!" On the 22d of June, therefore, the little prince was baptized by the names of Arthur William Patrick Albert; the first for the duke; the second for the Prince of Prussia, who was also present as sponsor; Patrick in remembrance of the visit to Ireland (and perhaps of the hint given by the old lady in the crowd). The name William was also chosen in memory of Queen Adelaide, whose sister, the Duchess Ida of Saxe-Weimar, was godmother.

The 1st of May was to be the date of the opening of the Great Exhibition in the following year, and it may be mentioned here that amidst all the excitement and ceremonial that preceded and accompanied the inauguration of that magnificent spectacle, the Duke of Wellington remembered his little godson. In the

Queen's journal recording the memorable day we read: "We began it with tenderest greetings for the birthday of our dear little Arthur. At breakfast there was nothing but congratulations. Our humble gifts of toys were added to by a beautiful little bronze replica of the Amazon (Kiss's) from the Prince (of Prussia), a beautiful paper-knife from the princess, and a nice little clock from mama." But it was when the great event was over, and the proud and happy Queen, rejoicing in the success of the work of her no less happy consort, had returned through a vast multitude of the citizens of the world to the palace, that her Majesty records: "I must not omit to mention an interesting episode of this day, viz. the visit of the good old duke on this his eighty-second birthday to his little godson, our dear little boy. He came to us both at five, and gave him a golden cup and some toys, which he had himself chosen, and Arthur gave him a nosegay." There is something very touching in the words—"which he had himself chosen." The duke, "the hero of a hundred fights," had been one of the great attractions of the day to thousands of eyes who watched him as he walked in the royal procession along the nave of the vast palace of glass arm in arm with that other old and grizzled warrior, Lord Anglesey. "And Arthur gave him a nosegay." We can almost fancy that as the gray head bent in recognition of the simple gift from that infant hand, an unaccustomed dimness came into those clear steel-blue eyes that had looked undaunted across so many a battle-field.

It is only repeating a declaration, made by everybody concerned in the promotion of the magnificent Exhibition of 1851, that if any man was competent to preside over such an undertaking that man was Prince Albert. His varied accomplishments in art, his technical knowledge, his practical and yet original and imaginative faculty, his painstaking attention to details, his delib-

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S BIRTHDAY GIFT.
TO PRINCE ARTHUR, MAY 1, 1851

Many of the plates throughout these volumes, including the present one, are from pictures by Franz Xaver Winterhalter, a German painter who is best known by his portraits of royal and aristocratic persons. He was born at Menzenschwand, in Baden, on April 20, 1806, and died in Frankfurt-on-the-Main on July 8, 1873. The story of this picture is sufficiently given in the text, but it may be mentioned here that May 1, 1851, the first birthday of Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, and, as he himself believed, the eighty-second of the great Duke after whom the Prince was named, was also the opening day of the great exhibition in Hyde Park.



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eration and patient consideration of the opinions and advice of others before arriving at a conclusion; his steadfast adhesion to the conclusion which he believed to be the right one, were all qualifications which eminently fitted him for the task, in the successful fulfilment of which he afterwards took such keen delight. The work was enormous; for though the general opinion of probable exhibitors and of the public had to be sounded, and at a later stage public meetings and other assemblies were held to promote the object in view, he determined that the scheme should succeed on its own merits. He was not without the support of "men of light and leading," and among the first were Lord Granville and the late Sir Stafford Northcote. The former wrote. "In any case I am afraid that there must be a great tax on the attention and time of his Royal Highness, who appears to be the only person who has considered the subject both as a whole and in its details. The whole thing would fall to pieces if he left it to itself."

The composition of the commission, the executive committee, and the building committee, included a considerable number of men of recognized eminence and ability, who had to explain to the public the nature of the undertaking, and to obtain the necessary funds for its installation. It was not an easy duty at first; but the ability of the advocates was no less conspicuous than the importance of the cause, which soon began to impress and to attract thoughtful and practical men. The ambassador of the French Republic, M. Drouyn de Lhuys; the Chevalier Bunsen, who delightedly represented Prussia; the Belgian ambassador M. Van de Weyer; and Mr. Lawrence the American representative, were all present at the first of the great public meetings in Willis's Rooms, where Lord Morpeth presided and Lord Brougham and the Bishop of Oxford lent their eloquence to

arouse the general interest. The chairman was singularly happy in quoting, in reference to the forthcoming Exhibition, the words of Pope:

“ The time shall come, when, free as seas and wind,
Unbounded Thames shall flow for all mankind,
Whole nations enter with each swelling tide,
And seas but join the regions they divide;
Earth’s distant ends our glories shall behold,
And the new world launch forth to seek the old.”

A month afterwards at a great banquet at the Mansion House, to which a distinguished company was invited, the Prince, in a speech of much power and interest, expressed his view of the objects of the forthcoming exhibition. We were, he said, living at a period of most wonderful transition, which tended rapidly to accomplish that great end to which all history points, the realization of the unity of mankind. Not a unity which breaks down the limits and levels the peculiar characteristics of the different nations of the earth, but rather a unity the result and product of those very national varieties and antagonistic qualities. The Prince reminded his audience that while the distances separating different nations were vanishing before the achievements of modern invention, the languages of all nations were known or could be acquired by everybody; and while thought was communicated with the rapidity and even by the power of lightning, the great principle of division of labour, which might be called the moving power of civilization, was being extended to all branches of science, industry, and art. The Exhibition of 1851 was to give a true test and a living picture of the point of development at which mankind had arrived, and also a new starting-point for a departure, in the discoveries of science, their application by industry, and the laws of beauty and symmetry by which art gave form to our productions.

Interest was universally aroused, but it was still difficult to obtain a sufficient sum of money to ensure success, and the arrangement of details with the immense number of foreign exhibits which were expected would require great attention to the design for the building, the site of which was not yet agreed to. Not only anxieties, but griefs and troubles marked the year of which this international display was the main topic. Lord John Russell's ministry was by no means strong, and the strongest man in it, Lord Palmerston, was the very one who was constantly causing alarm, if not actual danger, because of his wilfulness in acting independently of the prime-minister, the cabinet, or the Sovereign, in sending arbitrary despatches on his own responsibility, or in accompanying the official instructions to our representatives abroad with letters containing declarations and expressions of opinion which were not easy to dissociate from the instructions themselves.

We had already given emphasis to our declarations on the side of liberty by joining with France in protecting Turkey from the threatened attacks of Russia and Austria for refusing to surrender the Hungarian and Polish refugees who had sought a refuge in the dominions of the sultan. English and French vessels of war had also joined in interfering to prevent the blood-thirsty conflict which followed the bombardment of the Sicilians at Messina, and such interventions were permitted by the government and applauded by the nation; but when it came to a foreign minister sending a British fleet to the Dardanelles and risking—almost provoking—hostilities on the part not only of Russia, but of France, by a breach of our joint protectorate of Greece, for the purpose of threatening that country into the admission of preposterous claims of pecuniary compensation for alleged loss or damage of property belonging respectively to a British subject

and a Portuguese Jew, it was time to inquire to what extent the foreign minister was entitled to act without express consultation and concurrence of the Sovereign and the ministry. It was this proceeding which in June, 1850, led to a proposed vote of censure in the Upper House. Lord Palmerston met it by a defence of his general foreign policy, in a speech which lasted five hours, and was distinguished for its brilliant and consummate ability, but even those of his colleagues, who loyally supported him against the adverse motion and averted a ministerial crisis, felt that his conduct had been a striking justification of the grave remonstrances which had more than once been made by the Queen.

Public excitement was at this time again aroused by a cowardly attack on the Queen by a fellow named Pate, rather an eccentric and conspicuous dandy, who had once been a lieutenant of hussars, and used to pose in Hyde Park. On the 27th of June the Queen was just leaving Cambridge House, Piccadilly, where she had called to ask concerning her uncle, the Duke of Cambridge, who was seriously ill. As her carriage was passing out of the gateway Pate struck at her Majesty's face with his cane. Her forehead was severely bruised, and would have been more seriously injured but for the protection of her bonnet, which was crushed by the force of the blow. Pate was seized by the by-standers, and was afterwards tried and sentenced to seven years' transportation. The plea of insanity was set up, but failed, and no motive was assigned for the outrage.

Almost before her recovery from the shock of this attack the Queen experienced a keen and sudden calamity by the death of Sir Robert Peel, the statesman whom she had known and trusted so well, the faithful friend of herself and the Prince, who found in him an able and potent supporter in the work of the commis-

sion for the forthcoming Exhibition. On the 28th of June, the night of the Palmerston debate, which lasted till five o'clock in the morning, both Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone had spoken serious and weighty words of remonstrance against the assumptions of the foreign secretary and deprecating undue interference with other nations even with the object of advancing constitutional liberty. On the following day Sir Robert was riding up Constitution Hill on a horse which had been recently purchased for him. He was an unskilful rider, and held a loose rein. The horse shied or stumbled, and threw him, and, as he still retained the reins, fell upon him with its knees between his shoulders. There were serious injuries, the fracture of a rib which pressed upon the lung being that which proved fatal. He died on the 2d of July. The Queen and Prince Albert were overborne with grief, and the latter felt the calamity the more deeply because only a few hours before the fatal accident, Peel had attended the commission, where his advice and influence were needed, because there had been an intimation that parliament would refuse to allow the Exhibition building to be erected on the desired site in Hyde Park. This was a crisis in the scheme the effects of which Sir Robert was to endeavour to avert on the 4th of July, when the question would be considered in the House of Commons, and it was decided that if the refusal should be carried, the proposed Exhibition would have to be abandoned. This apprehension was not realized. When the discussion came on (on the 4th of July), a very large majority was in favour of the site in Hyde Park, and the opposition in the Upper House was withdrawn. Probably the knowledge that the opinion of the man who had so often led and even controlled the house by his earnest eloquence was in favour of the proposed site, had a great effect. Only two evenings before, that assembly had listened in

profound silence and deep grief as Mr. Gladstone, in tones that thrilled and words that admirably expressed the general emotion, spoke of the calamitous loss that had befallen the country. On the 9th of July the body of the statesman who had refused honours and rewards, and had sacrificed place and power to principle, was laid in the grave at Drayton.

On the 8th of July another of the royal dukes, the aged Duke of Cambridge, passed away. These autumn months were marked by sorrows, not the least of which was the serious illness of the Queen of the Belgians, whose condition prevented her from meeting the Queen and Prince Albert, when, with the four eldest children, they paid a brief visit to Ostend, where they were received by King Leopold.

On the 26th of August tidings of the death of Louis Philippe reached the Queen at Osborne. Her Majesty and the Prince went early next morning to Claremont to visit the afflicted family; but did not remain for more than one night in London, as on the following day they had to set out for Edinburgh by railway. The great railway bridges over the Tyne at Newcastle and the Tweed at Berwick having just been completed, the Queen alighted at both places to perform the ceremonial opening of these vast examples of the progress of engineering science. At Edinburgh her Majesty was received with the unabated enthusiasm which had marked her first visit, and was escorted in state to Holyrood, where the royal party, including the four elder children, remained until the 30th, when the Prince laid the foundation-stone of the National Fine Art Gallery of Edinburgh, before their departure for Balmoral on the following day.

A new grief befell them soon after the return to Osborne. Their fears on behalf of the beloved Louise, Queen of the

Belgians, were too soon realized, and her death on the 11th of October caused irrepressible sorrow, not only to the exiled family at Claremont, but to Queen Victoria, to whom it was a heart-felt blow. Her affection for her aunt was close, and there was true confidence between them. "Sex, age, culture, feeling, rank," wrote Prince Albert, "in all these they were so much on a par, that a relation of unconstrained friendship naturally grew up between them; and it was a friendship of which Victoria might with justice be proud."

But private griefs, even the most profound, had to be endured amidst unusual demands for attention to momentous affairs of state. There was a ministerial crisis, which ended in the resignation of the Russell cabinet, and a protracted but unsuccessful endeavour on the part of Lord Stanley to form another government. The disunion caused by the division of parties brought about a deadlock, in which the "*Queen's government*" was literally the ruling power; and though her Majesty sent to the Duke of Wellington and to Lord Lansdowne, it was only by a resumption of the helm by Lord John Russell and the passive acceptance by parliament of the renewal of a ministry too weak to inspire confidence, that the ship of state could again be provided with a crew. Fortunately there was a decided and general revival of commerce, trade was brisk, the signs of returning prosperity were unmistakable, and the effects of recent legislation in abolishing restrictions, in conjunction with the vast increase of the means of transit and the realization of the advantages of railway and telegraphic communication had begun to indicate a new era in industrial and commercial enterprise. These were happy conditions for the achievement of the undertaking to which Prince Albert had now to devote unremitting attention, and in which the Queen naturally took a deep per-

sonal interest. The public interest too had now become national, notwithstanding the adverse warnings and declarations of a few opponents, the extreme section of whom was represented by Colonel Sibthorpe, who expressed a wish that fire from heaven would destroy the building and the Exhibition, which would probably be made the opportunity for riot, revolution, and assassination. He warned householders to look after their plate, and fathers of families to be watchful when so many foreign incendiaries and evil characters were to be assembled in the metropolis. Cardinal Manning issued a "pastoral," in which he pointed out the occasion that might be given for the increase of folly, extravagance, dissipation, and worldliness, the danger to faith, morals, and charity by the concentration of corrupted and corrupting elements poured into London and the nation. To the pastoral was appended a bill of fare for Lent. The Bishop of London issued a charge in which he dwelt on the necessity during the great display which would attract people of all nations, for providing opportunities for public worship, and the means of religious observance and instruction. In this he wisely counted on the aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and during the time of the Exhibition great numbers of cheap copies of the Holy Scriptures in various languages were distributed. Religious associations were active; many of the churches were open during the week as well as on Sundays for short special services, and in chapels, halls, and other suitable buildings devotional and similar meetings of a simple religious character were held, and were often well attended.

The evils which had been foretold were not fulfilled; the intense public interest in the Exhibition itself, the mutual goodwill which appeared to be a consequence of it, the excellent unobtrusive arrangements for preserving order, and the admir-

able organization for the reception of a vast number of visitors to the building, united to maintain a marvellous fraternization and harmonious temper, in which every representative Briton seemed to feel that he was to keep up the character of a genial host. The resources of the railways were taxed to their utmost to bring the vast multitudes of provincial and foreign visitors; the number of public conveyances in London was enormously increased; and the metropolis may be said to have undergone a transformation by the necessity for providing for the extraordinary demands for eating and drinking. Innumerable "restaurants," inquiry offices, resorts for rest and refreshment, and other apparently temporary establishments, became permanent institutions, and in the desire to afford every accustomed convenience to our foreign visitors, we started great and extensive public improvements. The question not only of the building and its site, but of the means of obtaining the money to pay for it, had been happily settled in time to ensure the completion of the magnificent scheme. A guarantee fund had been started by the council, and the notion was well responded to, while subscriptions also came in pretty liberally.

Of the building itself everybody has heard the story: how Mr. (afterwards Sir) Joseph Paxton, head-gardener to the Duke of Devonshire, and whose name was associated with the splendid domain at Chatsworth, was smitten with a great idea, that a vast, a stupendous expansion of the great glass-house which he had erected for the flowering of the gigantic lily, the *Victoria Regia*, would be a fitting building for the display of the treasures of art and industry in Hyde Park. We have all heard how, at the latest moment, the design, with details suggested and all computations made to a fraction, was presented and accepted by the council; how, from distant centres of

industry there arrived in breathless haste, but with composed and calculating brains, contractors, founders, engineers, builders; how, as if by magic art, a fairy palace of transparent crystal, sustained on a bright-hued web, that was, in truth, composed of girders and hollow cylinders of iron, which formed the airy columns and arches of that marvellous structure, rose from the green expanse, and took within its splendid shelter the great trees that were left standing where they grew.

There have been exhibitions since—the Crystal Palace itself, rebuilt on Sydenham Hill, still stands, larger even than in its first dimensions—but there has been nothing which in the first view of its glory and the depth of its meaning has impressed the visitor as did this palace of 1851, when it was filled with the superb and wonderful collection that made it the first and the inimitable display of the choicest workmanship, the most wondrous productions of the habitable world. Just as the building seemed to have arisen “as though 'twere by a wizard's rod,” so the immediate passage from the outer space into the sheen and colour, the subdued impressive splendour of the show, produced a feeling of deep delight in which there was an element of awe and solemnity. There appeared to be a kind of spontaneity in the gorgeous spectacle, as though it had by nature been so arranged as to admit of little criticism, and had in it an unalterable element of beauty.

But let us hear what the Queen herself says of that wonderful installation on the 1st of May, 1851. There were still many persons who had misgivings as to the security of her Majesty and of the maintenance of order on the occasion of such a vast gathering of all classes and all nations. The Queen, however, had no such misgiving. She could trust to the unfailing love and loyalty of the people. This trust was

entirely justified, and her Majesty was thus able to write after the simple but immeasurably suggestive inauguration had been celebrated: "The great event has taken place—a complete and beautiful triumph—a glorious and touching sight, one which I shall ever be proud of for my beloved Albert and my country. . . . Yes, it is a day which makes my heart swell with pride and glory and thankfulness! The park presented a wonderful spectacle, crowds streaming through it, carriages and troops passing, quite like the coronation day. . . . The day was bright, and all bustle and excitement. . . . At half-past eleven the whole procession in state carriages was in motion. . . . The Green Park and Hyde Park were one densely-crowded mass of human beings, in the highest good-humour and most enthusiastic. . . . The glimpse of the transept through the iron gates, the waving palms, flowers, statues, myriads of people filling the galleries and seats around, with the flourish of trumpets as we entered, gave us a sensation which I can never forget. . . . We went for a moment to a little side-room where we left our shawls, and where we found mama and Mary (now Princess of Teck), and outside which were standing the other princes. In a few seconds we proceeded, Albert leading me, and having Vicky at his hand, and Bertie holding mine. The sight as we came to the middle, where the steps and chair (which I did not sit on) were placed, with the beautiful crystal fountain just in front of it, was magical, so vast, so glorious, so touching. One felt, as so many did whom I have since spoken to, filled with devotion, more so than by any service I ever heard. The tremendous cheers, the joy expressed in every face, the immensity of the building, the mixture of palms, flowers, trees, statues, fountains, the organ (with 200 instruments and 600 voices, which sounded like nothing), and my beloved

husband the author of this 'Peace Festival,' which united the industry of all nations of the earth, all this was moving indeed, and it was and is a day to live for ever." The procession through the nave, the noble and sublime strains of the Hallelujah Chorus, the simple prayer of consecration, the declaration of the opening of the building followed; and the whole proceedings of that memorable occasion concluded without one single mishap or one case of riot or breach of the laws among the vast and imposing multitude. Well might the Queen conclude her account by saying: "Albert's emphatic words last year, when he said that the feeling would be that of deep thankfulness to the Almighty for the blessings which he has bestowed upon us already here below, this day realized."

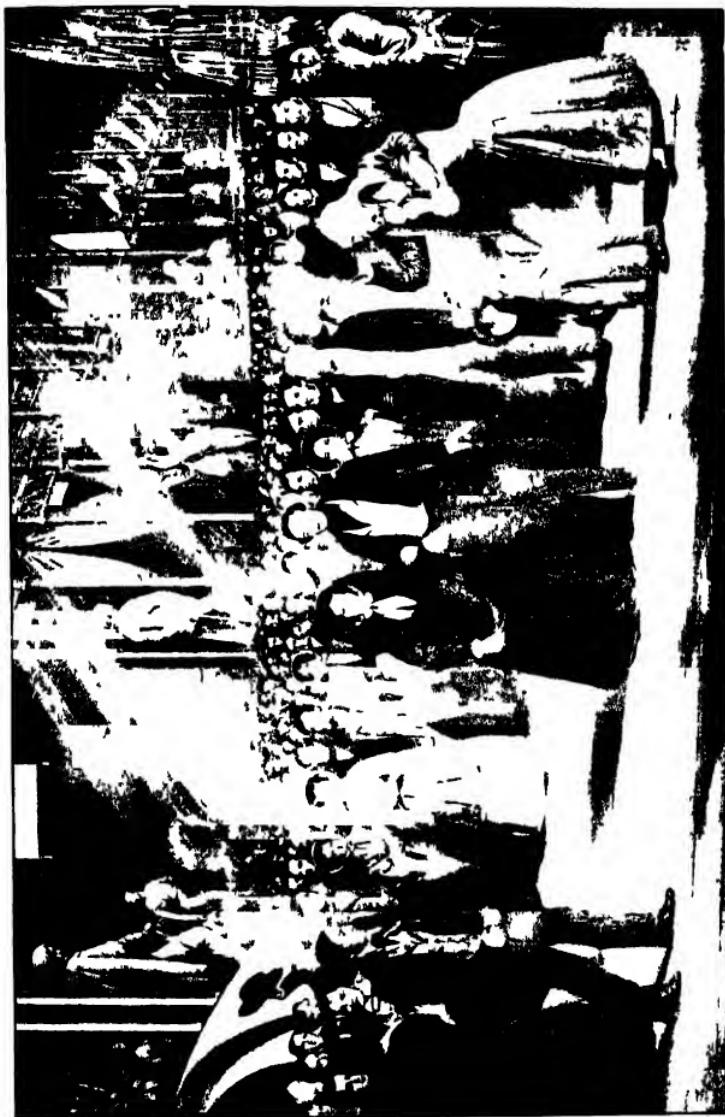
The season was one of much pleasurable excitement, and in addition to state balls and receptions there was one magnificent ball and assembly at the Guildhall, where the Queen and the Prince attended in state amidst a great display of popular enthusiasm. All question of the enormous success of the Exhibition had been settled almost in the first week. There was a money surplus amounting to about a quarter of a million after paying expenses. There had frequently been above 70,000 persons in the building at one time; on the last days there were over 100,000 each day. On the 15th of October the Exhibition was closed by Prince Albert, who addressed the jurors after receiving their report. The Queen had paid her last visit on the previous day. "It looked so beautiful I could not believe it was the last time I was to see it," she wrote. "The old Cornish woman (Mary Kerlynack) who walked up several hundred miles to see the Exhibition was at the door to see me—a most hale old woman, who was near crying at my looking at her."

After the Exhibition, nothing during that year seems to have

OPENING THE GREAT EXHIBITION

1st May, 1851

The Great Industrial Exhibition of 1851 was one of the most glorious achievements of permanent value associated with the reign of the late Queen Victoria. Though by no means the first industrial exhibition, it was the first of a really international character, and its influence on all subsequent exhibitions of the same nature has been profound and lasting. A comparison of the gigantic exhibition held at Paris in 1855 with its Hyde Park predecessor would give an excellent idea of the immense progress in science, art, and industry achieved during the second half of the nineteenth century. The number of visitors at the London exhibition was 6,039,195, but no less than 17,000,000 tickets were presented at the gates of the recent Paris one. The design of the Great Exhibition building, founded by Sir Joseph Paxton on that of the great conservatory at Chatsworth, was unique, and the collection of objects of art, science, and industry was, then unparalleled both in extent and magnificence. Practically all civilized nations were represented, and the total number of exhibitors was about 15,000, of whom one-half were British. This epoch-making exhibition, which was truly, in Cobden's words, "a triumph of industry instead of a triumph of arms", must always be associated with the memory of Prince Albert, to whose indefatigable exertions its success was mainly due. To the enterprise of several public-spirited men we are indebted for the noble material of it which we now possess in the Crystal Palace at Sydenham.



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made a deeper impression on the Queen's mind than the enthusiasm of her reception at Liverpool and Manchester, to which towns she paid a visit, together with Prince Albert and their elder children, on the way south from Balmoral a few days before the closing of the Exhibition. At Liverpool, she wrote in her journal, "It poured, the roads were a sea of mud, and yet the whole way along was lined with people, and so wet!" At Manchester, or rather, Salford, what impressed her most was the gathering of 82,000 children, who were assembled to receive her in the Peel Park—"a most extraordinary, and totally unprecedented sight," as she wrote "All the children sang 'God save the Queen' extremely well together."

We have already noted the prompt and genuine interest expressed by the "Prince-president" Louis Napoleon Bonaparte in the success of the Great Exhibition, and in this he evidently represented the French people, who came to London in great numbers, and manifested not only a generous appreciation of the show to which their own artisans and manufacturers had so largely contributed, but a pleased and grateful sense of the good feeling and hospitable welcome which attended their stay in England. This feeling, and the *entente cordiale* which had been established between the two nations, was expressed by an invitation to the royal commissioners and the executive by one of the chief of the French exhibitors to visit Paris on the 2d of August, where some suitable festivities would be held in their honour, including a fête by the president of the republic at St. Cloud and a ball at the Hôtel de Ville. Louis Napoleon was anxious that Prince Albert, for whose character and ability he had great admiration, should accept the invitation conveyed to him through Lord Granville to be present at the fêtes, and to be a guest at the Palace of the Elysée; but the Prince felt compelled to decline the

honour, both on account of his health, which was already tried by the labours that had devolved on him, and because he had decided to attend no festive celebrations of the success of the Exhibition except that at the Guildhall. The fêtes at Paris were brilliant, and the hospitality accorded to the visitors at once cordial and superb, Lord Granville especially gaining the enthusiastic regard of the hosts by his happy and graceful speeches in response to the toasts that were drunk and the courtesies that were offered.

A year of great events was drawing to a close, when, on the 4th of December, the Queen, who was at Osborne, received the startling intelligence that by a *coup d'état* two days previously the "prince-president" had abolished the constitution of the French Republic, that Paris was in a state of siege, that universal suffrage had been proclaimed with a view to elect a responsible head of the state for ten years, and a legislative body, and to concur in restoring the system created by the first consul (afterwards Emperor Napoleon) at the commencement of the century. There had been an energetic attempt on the part of the republican deputies to resist this sudden and secret stroke, but the deputies were arrested, the rising of the populace was not only suppressed, but was anticipated by the troops, who were ordered to fire upon the people in the boulevards on the first appearance of an opposing demonstration. Barricades arose, blood flowed; there was a conflict and great loss of life, for the military held the streets and swept them with a sustained fire, which was also directed against houses where any armed resistance was suspected. Many people in England recoiled with horror from the course taken by the president; many others believed that he had done the best thing possible for saving Paris and France from another revolution succeeded by a state of anarchy and the excesses of violent and

lawless pretenders to authority. Among those who took this view was Lord Palmerston, and it was at such a crisis as this that his habit of what seemed like a reckless committal of the foreign policy of the country to an expression of his personal opinion would be most mischievous. At all events the Queen seemed to think so, for she immediately wrote to Lord John Russell that she thought it of great importance that Lord Normanby, our ambassador at Paris, should be instructed to remain entirely passive, and should take no part whatever in what was passing, as any word from him might be misconstrued at such a moment. This opinion was in concurrence with that of the cabinet, and instructions were sent which enabled Lord Normanby to tell the French minister for foreign affairs that he need make no change in his relations to the French government; but Lord Palmerston could not resist an opportunity for sending messages of his own, and it transpired that without consulting anybody he had expressed not only to our ambassador in Paris, but to the French ambassador here, his approbation of the *coup d'état*. This repetition of a course of procedure which was amenable neither to precedent nor to rebuke, placed the premier and the cabinet in a position which necessitated the removal of Lord Palmerston from the foreign office, where he was succeeded by Lord Granville.

Who could have foreseen—and yet there may have been a few people who could foresee—that the swift current of events would very shortly make Louis Napoleon Bonaparte emperor of the French and the ally of England,—would bring him here as an imperial visitor and take the Queen to France as his honoured guest;—that Lord Palmerston would succeed Lord Aberdeen as premier, after the latter had, by aid of a coalition ministry of Whigs and Peelites, failed to satisfy the country during the pro-

secution of a war with Russia—a tremendous struggle such as the present century had never witnessed?

It has been remarked that before the close of the year 1852 two events had happened which, though they had no actual relation to each other, came so close together that the coincidence was noticeable. On the 13th of September the Duke of Wellington died at Walmer Castle after a short and comparatively painless illness. On Sunday the 5th of December, the anniversary of the *coup d'état*, the empire was restored in France, and Louis Napoleon, who had made a progress through the provinces, became the Emperor Napoleon the Third by the suffrages of the people and the army.

The Queen and the royal family were at Balmoral when, on the 16th of September, her Majesty with the Prince and some of the Highland party had gone on an excursion to Alt-na-Giuthasach, to a little "shiel" where they were to spend a couple of days. While stopping to rest at one point of the journey the Queen suddenly missed her watch, which had been a present from "the dear old duke," and not being certain whether she had put it on or not, sent one of the Highland servants back to inquire. The man returned by the time that the party had reached the Dhu Loch, and reported that the watch was safe, at the same time handing some letters which he had brought back. Amongst them was one from Lord Derby, which contained sad news indeed. "England's, or rather Britain's pride, her glory, her hero, the greatest man she ever had produced, was no more! Sad day! Great and irreparable national loss!" So wrote the Queen in the depth of her sorrow; and she continued: "The day must have come: the duke was eighty-three; . . . but what a loss! One cannot think of this country without the duke, our immortal hero! In him was centred almost every

earthly honour a subject could possess. His position was the highest a subject ever had—above party—looked up to by all—revered by the whole nation,—the friend of the Sovereign; and how simply he carried these honours! With what singleness of purpose, what straightforwardness, what courage, were all the motives of his actions guided! . . . His experience and his knowledge of the past were so great, too! he was a link which connected us with bygone times—with the last century. Not an eye will be dry in the whole country.” In her simple impulsive way the Queen had written in her journal in the evening the thoughts that immediately followed the reading of the sorrowful intelligence, and they expressed the national feeling.

Never had such a spectacle been seen as that of the vast multitude which, on the 18th of November, occupied the streets and stood in profound silence as the grand and solemn funeral procession of the great commander passed by the route from the Horse Guards to Saint Paul’s Cathedral, where the tomb was prepared beside the last resting-place of Nelson. The body of the duke had lain in state at Chelsea Hospital for three days, and enormous numbers of people had been admitted—as many as 100,000 in one day—several being seriously injured on the first occasion from want of arrangements for restraining the tremendous crush. The vast funeral pageant was very imposing as minute guns were fired, the drums beat in a long and heavy roll, increasing like the roll of thunder, and the bands played the dead march; while dignitaries of every degree, military officers, foreign diplomatists, troops, pensioners, and officers bearing superb insignia, slowly passed along. Prince Albert, with the lord-chamberlain and groom of the stole, attended in a state carriage drawn by six horses. The carriages of the Queen and the great nobility followed the funeral-car, and her Majesty witnessed

the funeral procession from Buckingham Palace as it passed the Horse Guards, and again from St. James's Palace as it came down into Pall Mall. Foreign officers of high rank carried the field-marshall's batons that had been presented to the duke by other powers. The English baton was borne on a cushion by the dead warrior's old comrade the Marquis of Anglesey. Foreign visitors were impressed more by the silence and solemnity of the assembled millions than by the procession itself. There were representatives of every high-class state present, except Austria, where the government was supposed to have taken offence at Lord Palmerston's reply to a remonstrance against the very rough reception and insulting remarks inflicted by some draymen on General Haynau on his visit to Barclay and Perkins' brewery while he was in London. General Haynau had the reputation of being a cruel and remorseless military tyrant, and it was declared that he had not only persecuted the Poles but had ordered Polish ladies to be flogged. At the funeral of the hero of Waterloo France was represented by its ambassador, by the special command of the prince president, so soon to become emperor.

"Honour, my lords, to the people who so well knew how to reverence the illustrious dead," said Lord Derby in a fine oration in the House of Peers that night. "Honour to the friendly visitors, especially to France, the great and friendly nation that testified by the presence of their representative, their regret and veneration for his memory. . . . We have buried, in our greatest hero, the man among us who had the greatest horror of war."

"His object was not fame, nor glory, but a lasting peace," the Earl of Derby had said in his oration on the Duke of Wellington. "L'Empire c'est la paix," had been the emphatic declaration of Napoleon the Third amidst the splendours which cele-

brated his return to Paris, and his reception of the imperial title. The object of the Great International Exhibition had been the promotion of peace, and yet the mourning for the duke was scarcely over—the watchword that caught the ear of France had scarcely found its way into historical record—the latest sounds of the removal of the Great Palace of Peace from Hyde Park had scarcely ceased—before there was proclamation of a mighty war, and stirring sounds of military preparations were heard in every part of the country. Lord Hardinge succeeded the Duke of Wellington as commander-in-chief, for Prince Albert had, as we know, declined the honour when it was offered him in prospect, and had felt obliged to combat the arguments by which the duke himself endeavoured to induce him to reconsider his determination. He had, however, taken great practical and personal interest in the question of organizing the militia, reconstructing the plan of military instruction by establishing a large camp where effective contingents might be kept in training, and forming an army reserve force. His consultations with the duke and others had been of considerable value and importance, resulting in the formation of the camps at Chobham and Aldershott.

On the 7th of April, 1853, another prince was born at Buckingham Palace, and the Queen made a rapid recovery; so rapid that on the 18th she wrote to her uncle, who, in company of the faithful Stockmar, was bearing his latest grief at Brussels: "Leopold is to be the name of our fourth young gentleman. It is a mark of love and affection which I hope you will not disapprove. It is a name which is the dearest to me after Albert's, and one which recalls the almost only happy days of my sad childhood. To hear Prince Leopold again will make me think of all those days! His other names will be George Duncan Albert, and the sponsors the King of Hanover, Ernest Hohenlohe, the

Princess of Prussia, and Mary Cambridge. George is after the King of Hanover, and Duncan, a compliment to dear Scotland." The King George of Hanover mentioned here was the Queen's cousin. Her uncle, Ernest Augustus, had died in his eighty-first year on the 18th of November, 1851.

It was not till the 28th of June that the infant prince was baptized in presence of all the sponsors mentioned, and before that time (on the 21st) the Queen with the King of Hanover, and the Duke of Coburg, was present at a first trial of field operations at Chobham, where a large number of troops had taken up their quarters after the preparation of the ground as a camp, Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge having gone down to inspect the arrangements. The Queen on horseback, and wearing a military riding-habit, rode with Prince Albert and her royal guests down the lines, and afterwards witnessed the manœuvres from one of the heights. It was computed that a hundred thousand spectators were present, and the "sham fight" was pronounced to be as much like "the real thing" as possible, the broken country, streams, hills, and woods giving it additional interest and variety.

Prince Albert afterwards took an active part in the military duties of the camp; but on his return to town on the 25th he suffered severely from a cold, and afterwards from an attack of measles, with which the Prince of Wales had sickened some days before. All the family suffered from this disorder, and the young Crown Prince of Hanover, and the Duke and Duchess of Coburg, also took it, and, leaving before they were aware of the infection, transmitted it to the young Belgian princes, the Duke of Brabant and the Count of Flanders, whom they met on their way back to Coburg.

The Queen and the Prince again visited the camp in

August, along with the four eldest children, when some very effective and brilliant manœuvres were performed previous to its breaking up on the 20th. On the 11th of August forty ships of war of all kinds, of which thirty-seven were steam-vessels, were reviewed at Spithead by the Queen, who, with the Prince and several distinguished guests, witnessed the evolutions. It was a superb spectacle. The fleet, which carried 1100 guns and 10,000 men, was in advance of that of any other European power.

About a fortnight later, the Queen, with Prince Albert and their two eldest sons, paid a visit to the Exhibition of Irish Industries at Dublin, the building for which had been erected at the sole expense of Mr. Dargan. The royal party stayed about a week in Dublin, visiting the Exhibition every day.

Even at that time war with Russia was regarded as almost inevitable. During the following winter the warlike spirit which prevailed in the country was the indirect cause of deep pain and much annoyance to the Queen and Prince Albert. When Lord Palmerston, who represented the war party, resigned his position in the cabinet, among the wild rumours which were current as to his reasons for the step many took the form of calumnies against the Prince, who was represented as a power "behind the throne" carrying on intrigues in support of German, and hostile to British, interests. These calumnies were pushed so far that it was thought necessary to bring them before Parliament, when it met in January 1854; and they were silenced for ever by the complete refutation which they met with by the leading ministers in both Houses.

In the early spring the monstrous demands of the Emperor Nicholas, and his arrogant assumptions that he could obliterate Turkey at his will, consolidated our alliance with the French, and war with Russia was proclaimed on the 28th of March.

Napoleon III. was a firm and faithful ally, and his conduct throughout the continuance of the tremendous struggle with Russia was marked by an honourable desire to maintain the closest and most friendly relations with this country. He, like Louis Philippe, was only distantly acknowledged by the sovereigns of Europe, and he felt that he was treated as a parvenu. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that, when in July, 1854, Prince Albert accepted his invitation to visit the camp between St. Omer and Boulogne, where he had collected an army of 100,000 men, he expressed his pleasure in terms of courtesy which were undoubtedly sincere. The invitation was conveyed with much delicacy; the emperor first inquiring of Lord Cowley, then our representative in Paris, whether (as a friend) he thought it would be acceptable. The visit was paid on the 4th of September. The King of the Belgians had been with the emperor, but could not stay, and though Prince Albert could only remain three days, which were actively occupied from morning till night, he had, during rides and walks, many opportunities of confidential conversation with the emperor, with whom he was for the most part greatly pleased, though he noticed about him somewhat of a garrison tone, which was probably, to a great extent, attributable to the occasion. Of Prince Albert the emperor had formed a very high opinion, and evidently felt deeply the unreserved manner in which he talked of public affairs, and the gracious messages of which he was the bearer from the Queen, who had sent a friendly letter to the empress. This touched Louis Napoleon deeply, for while some of the "crowned heads" were probably wondering where he would eventually endeavour to look for an alliance, he had, in 1853, quietly married, "for love," the beautiful and distinguished Eugenie Marie de Montijo, daughter of Count de Montijo,

a grandee of Spain, and of Mary Manuela Kirkpatrick de Close-burn, the descendant of a Scottish Roman Catholic family. This accomplished lady, who was twenty-seven years old at the time of her marriage with the emperor, had completed her education in France and England, and had travelled over the greater part of Europe.

A few days after Prince Albert had returned to England, the Queen removed to Balmoral, where a fortnight later the news reached her of the victory won by the allied forces at the battle of the Alma (September 20th)—the first battle of the Crimean war. The Queen's joy at the victory, and her great pride in the splendid conduct of her troops, were damped by the thought of all that they had suffered from cholera and exposure to heat, cold, and wet. During the following winter, she and Prince Albert were occupied with attempts to relieve the sufferings of the troops from the extreme cold of the Crimea.

On the 16th of April in the following year (1855), in compliance with the request of Queen Victoria, the emperor and empress of France paid a visit to England. The imperial guests came in their yacht with an attendant squadron, and a fleet of our own war steamers was at Dover to welcome them; but so dense was the fog that no fleet was visible, and the imperial yacht with difficulty reached the admiralty pier. The welcome on the landing of the guests, and their subsequent journey, especially in London on the way from Southwark to the Paddington Station, was hearty and enthusiastic; and as the emperor passed to Piccadilly and Hyde Park, along the familiar streets occupied by cheering crowds, he must have experienced some strange emotion. Windsor was decorated with flags and triumphal arches for a grand reception. The open carriage conveying the imperial visitors and Prince Albert, who

had accompanied them from Dover, drove from the station to the castle, where her Majesty, with her children and the Prince of Leiningen and the Duke of Cambridge (who had recently returned from the seat of war), were waiting to receive them. The evening was fine and bright, and the Queen noticed a movement in the crowd of spectators outside, a groom was seen galloping his horse, a gun was fired, another groom appeared, and then, amidst the sound of cheering, came the escort and the outriders, as her Majesty stepped forward, with the children and the two princes close behind her, to receive her guests. The Queen speaks of the indescribable emotions which made this reception seem like a wonderful dream. She advanced and embraced the emperor, who, having kissed her hand, received a salute on either cheek, and her Majesty then embraced "the very gentle, graceful, and evidently very nervous empress, the princes were presented, and our children (Vicky with very alarmed eyes making very low curtsies). The emperor embraced Bertie, and then we went upstairs, Albert leading the empress, who, in the most engaging manner, refused to go first, but at length with graceful reluctance did so, the emperor leading me, expressing his great gratification at being here and seeing me, and admiring Windsor." In the throne-room there were other presentations, and the visitors were then conducted to their apartments,—the splendid suite including the Rubens, the Zuccarelli, and the Vandyke rooms,—the emperor's bed-room being the same that had been occupied by the Emperor Nicholas and by King Louis Philippe. Only three days before, the aged ex-Queen of France, the widowed Marie Amélie, had visited her Majesty, who says, "It made us both so sad to see her drive away in a plain coach with miserable post-horses, and to think that this was the Queen of the French, and that six years ago her

husband was surrounded by the same pomp and grandeur which three days hence would surround his successor."

The manners of the emperor were easy and propitiatory, his tone towards the Queen marked by a careful deference which was evidently sincere. His voice was low and soft, though he spoke with an earnestness which frequently became intense; his courtesy and tact were such as to conduce to the friendliest sentiments, and for the empress her Majesty quickly acquired genuine admiration and regard. "She is full of courage and spirit and yet so gentle, with such innocence and *enjouement*, that the *ensemble* is most charming. With all her great liveliness, she has the prettiest and most modest manner."

Much had to be done to make the brief visit memorable. The household troops were reviewed in the home park, where, the Queen says, the emperor rode down the line on a very fiery, beautiful chestnut, and rode extremely well. Lord Cardigan was there on the chestnut horse he rode at Balaklava. The excitement and cheering were tremendous; and the Queen was rather nervous because of the way in which the crowd on foot and horseback squeezed round the emperor; but all ended well.

There was, of course, much serious conference on the subject of the war during the stay of the imperial guests, and on the evening before their departure a council was held at Buckingham Palace, at which were present the Queen, the Emperor, Prince Albert, Marshal Vaillant, and Lords Palmerston, Clarendon, and Panmure. The purpose of the meeting was to settle the future plan of operations in the Crimea. Her Majesty records "it was one of the most interesting scenes I was ever present at. I would not have missed it for the world."

The festivities had included a ball in the Waterloo Room, where the Queen appeared in a quadrille with the Emperor, who,

she thought, danced with spirit and dignity. "How strange," she writes, "to think that I, the granddaughter of George the Third, should dance with the Emperor Napoleon, nephew of England's great enemy, now my nearest and most intimate ally, in the *Waterloo Room*, and this ally only six years ago living in this country an exile, poor and unthought of."

The important public events connected with the emperor's visit were his reception of an address from the corporation of London at Windsor Castle, and his subsequent state visit with the empress to the Guildhall from Buckingham Palace; the presence of the royal and imperial party at Her Majesty's Theatre to hear the opera of *Fidelio*, when the Queen led the emperor to the front of the royal box to present him to the applause of the audience; and the visit to the Crystal Palace,—the reconstructed palace of glass at Sydenham,—where the reception by a great assembled multitude was almost overwhelming, though the Queen states that she was anxious, and felt as she walked, leaning on the emperor's arm, that she was possibly a protection to him.

The emperor was invested with the order of the Garter in the throne-room at Windsor on the day after his arrival, and on that occasion there was a very full chapter, and the Queen was most anxious that everything should go off well. She even confided her anxiety to Bishop Wilberforce, who was present, and that keen observer and humorist has left a record of his impressions of the emperor's manner and appearance, saying that he was "rather mean-looking, small, and a tendency to *embonpoint*; a remarkable way, as it were, of swimming up a room, with an uncertain gait, a small gray eye, looking cunning, but with an aspect of softness about it too. The empress a peculiar face from the arched eyebrows; blonde complexion; an air of sadness

about her; but a person whose countenance at once interests you."

The visit resulted in the establishment of mutual confidence and in a very sincere regard, especially between Victoria and the Empress Eugenie. Farewells were said with expressions of regret at parting, and almost the last words were a promise on the part of the Queen and the Prince that they would make a return visit to Paris in the summer if public duties did not prevent them. The return visit could not be made till after the prorogation of parliament on the 14th of August, and it was even then felt to be necessary that the stay in Paris should be short, for the Queen's health required the change and rest which could only be found at Balmoral.

The progress of the war in the Crimea had still left Sebastopol to be taken, although the Russians were evidently becoming exhausted in their efforts to subdue the allied armies by force of numbers.

The Emperor of Russia was dead; had died on the 2d March of the effects of a cold contracted in the severe winter, during which our perishing troops suffered so terribly in the freezing wind, snow, and rain of the Crimea. He had said that Generals January and February would subdue the allies, but it was he who, under his reverses and the icy climate of St. Petersburg, had ceased to trouble the world. Lord Raglan, our general in command, was dead; had died on the 29th of June; and was succeeded by General Simpson. There had been failures in some of our attempts; but the victory at Alma had been followed by others at Balaklava and Inkerman. The allied armies had held their own, and on the 16th of August there was a great defeat of the reserve Russian host which was brought against the allied forces on the Tschernaya, where the French

bore the first brunt of the onslaught, and repelled it with splendid vigour and courage.

The time was so far propitious for the royal visit to Paris, for the spirits of the French were aroused by this event, and they were again enthusiastic for the alliance with England and the prosecution of the war to the taking of Sebastopol.

The welcome given to the Queen was imperial, but yet was remarkable for a friendly simplicity of manner on the part of the hosts. Doubtless the visit of her Majesty to France as a proof of an acknowledged alliance was as important to Napoleon III. as the former visit had been to Louis Philippe. From the moment when the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, were received at Boulogne by the emperor and his brilliant retinue, there was a series of brilliant fêtes, alternating with pleasant hours of repose at the beautiful palace of St. Cloud, where a sumptuously furnished suite of rooms was placed at the disposal of the royal guests, who were received at the doors by the empress, the Princess Mathilde, and the ladies, and conducted up the fine staircase, lined with the Cent Gardes, to the rooms, which the Queen says were charming. "I felt quite bewildered, but enchanted; everything was so beautiful." The welcome to Paris had been truly magnificent, for the party arrived just at dusk, but not too late to see the superb decorations, the fine streets lined with troops, the splendid illuminations, and the enthusiastic crowds shouting, *Vive la Reine d'Angleterre!* as the bands played "God save the Queen." The new Boulevard de Strasbourg, Porte St. Denis, the Madeleine, the Place de la Concorde, the Arc de Triomphe, were successive points where the grand spectacle was most imposing; and the Queen was much struck by the extent and brilliancy of the display of troops all the way

to the Bridge of Boulogne, near the village and palace of St. Cloud, where, to her great delight, she first saw the Zouaves, "splendid troops in splendid dress, the friends of my dear Guards." There could have been no more delightful royal abode than the palace of St. Cloud, with its charming gardens and park. The day after the Queen's arrival was Sunday the 19th of August, when the English service was read in one of the rooms of the palace by the chaplain of the embassy, and the afternoon was spent with the imperial host and hostess in a quiet drive in the Bois de Boulogne to Neuilly and the banks of the Seine. There was a large dinner party in the evening, at which General Canrobert was present. He afterwards told Lord Clarendon that he had talked to many people, military and civil, but to none so thoroughly well-informed about the Crimea, the siege, and the armies, as Queen Victoria.

The Salle de Mars, the Salle de Diane, where the grand dinners and the reception after a dramatic performance were held, are as historical as the garden and the fountains, but the whole of the beautiful building and its surroundings are now little more than historical, for they were demolished during the iniquitous excesses of the Communists at a later date. The delightful air, the brightness of the pleasant gardens, the fine view of Paris from the windows of the royal apartments, were appreciated by the Queen no less than the frank and pleasant ways of the emperor and his lovely Eugénie. A morning was occupied in a delightful drive to Versailles to see its wonderful gardens and series of fountains, the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon, where there was luncheon in one of the little cottages, and a pleasant hour was spent in listening under the trees to the band of the Guides. That night there was a state visit to the Grand Opera. Paris was illuminated; the streets were

thronged with people cheering; the theatre was crowded, and the performance ended with a ballet, concluding with a scene depicting Windsor at the time of the arrival of the emperor. The English national anthem was splendidly sung and enthusiastically received by the audience, and we learn that though the return to St. Cloud was not till after midnight, the Emperor and Prince Albert were in such good spirits that they sat up repeating old German songs to each other.

There was an admirable Exposition des Beaux Arts in Paris, at which England and the colonies were very well represented, and where the collection of painting and sculpture, as well as those of art manufactures, were very attractive. On the occasion of the royal visit the Emperor presented to Prince Albert a fine Sèvres vase representing the Exhibition of 1851, which had been expressly prepared for him. The same day there was a visit to the Tuileries, where the Queen received the préfet and municipality of Paris, accepting their invitation to a grand state ball at the Hôtel de Ville, and, with the permission of the emperor, consenting to receive the compliment of having the new street named after her. The royal party then went to the Elysée, whence, much to the Emperor's amusement, the Queen and Prince Albert, with the princess royal and the maid of honour, drove *incognito*, and in very plain attire, through several parts of Paris. They occupied a plain hired coach, and were greatly interested in the excursion.

On the following evening the Queen was present at the great ball at the Hôtel de Ville. The streets were again illuminated; the reception was magnificent. Her Majesty wore a diadem containing the Koh-i-noor: that diamond which had been one of the great attractions of the Great Exhibition, had belonged to Runjeet Singh, chief of Lahore, and had been

QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISIT TO PARIS, 1855

The late Queen's visit to the French capital in August, 1855, took place during the progress of the Crimean War, in which British and French troops were fighting on the same side. In consequence, the enthusiasm shown by the people of the city was unbounded, and her Majesty's reception was signalized by a magnificent series of brilliant fêtes.



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presented to the Queen by the East India Company. On the 24th there was a splendid review of 30,000 to 40,000 troops in the Champs de Mars, where the troops cheered enthusiastically and the bands played "God save the Queen." This spectacle, the subsequent march past, and the aspect of the streets as the Emperor, Prince Albert, Prince Adalbert, and Prince Napoleon, in uniform, and attended by a brilliant suite, escorted the royal and imperial carriage, were striking features of the visit, and were memorable because, as the Queen remarked, "those splendid troops are the comrades of the men who are fighting along with mine, and I have a real affection for them;" to which the emperor replied that he hoped that happy unity might ever continue, and that her Majesty would be able to look at those soldiers as if they were her own."

Still more memorable, perhaps, was the visit that evening to the Hôtel des Invalides, under the dome of which lay the coffin containing the remains of the first Napoleon. The weather during the whole time of the visit to Paris had been exceedingly sultry, and the review had been deferred to the evening in consequence, so that it was late and growing dark when the Invalides was reached, and torches had to be lighted to conduct the visitors to the open vault in the great lofty church. The coffin was not yet in the vault, but in the small chapel at St. Jerome, to which the Emperor led Victoria, who writes "There I stood at the arm of Napoleon III., his nephew, before the coffin of England's bitterest foe; I, the granddaughter of that king who hated him most, and who most vigorously opposed him, and this very nephew who bears his name being my nearest and dearest ally! The organ of the church was playing 'God save the Queen' at the time, and this solemn scene took place by torchlight and during a thunder-storm."

The time was all too short for the magnificent series of festivities in honour of the royal visitors, and yet so admirably were they contrived that there were pleasant quiet hours for conversation—cosy little dinners preceding the evening assemblies, and many opportunities of discussing the progress of the war, which was of course the uppermost topic. On the 25th of August there was a visit to the forest of St. Germains, where the huntsmen with the dogs and horns assembled *en grande tenue*, and village girls all dressed in white, and presented by the curé, offered flowers and fruit to Victoria, one of them declaiming a long poem, in which she broke down once or twice. In the evening there was a magnificent state ball and supper at Versailles surpassing in splendour anything that had been seen there since the days of Louis XIV.; supper for four hundred people being served on the stage in the theatre at small tables, each presided over by a lady of distinction, the royal and imperial supper party occupying the imperial box. This splendid assembly had been preceded by a grand display of fireworks and illuminations in the park, and all the arrangements had been designed by the empress, who, however, was at that time in delicate health and did not dance at the ball, where the Queen joined in three dances; and received several persons who were presented to her, among them Count Bismarck, then Prussian minister at Frankfort.

There existed between the emperor and his guests a frank confidence which enabled the Queen to tell him that she could not abate her friendship to the Orleans family or her demonstrations of personal regard to its members. The emperor entirely coincided with her, and declared that his own proceedings for excluding them from France and confiscating their property were caused only by his discovery that their agents, encouraged by themselves, were endeavouring to upset his authority. The Queen writes:

"The emperor said in conclusion of his explanation about the confiscation, that their agents were in constant communication with his enemies, even with those who preach assassination. I said I could hardly credit this. They were, I was sure, incapable of such conduct. I, however, added, that naturally all exiles were inclined to conspire, which he did not deny, and which, indeed, he had practised himself." This was plain, shrewd speaking; but the friendship which not only the Queen, but Prince Albert, felt towards the emperor and the empress, whom they both greatly admired, made such conversation easy. The Queen records that she felt confidence in the sincerity of the emperor, that she felt safe with him, and she could therefore speak without the restraint that accompanies suspicion or uncertainty.

As the royal party returned from a visit to the Chapelle de St. Ferdinand on the following day (Sunday), a woman came from a house opposite, occupied by the curé, and brought a box containing two medals, which the emperor bought from her, and presented to the Queen *comme souvenir*. The medals bore the heads of the deceased Duke of Orleans, and of the Comte de Páris, with some lines in allusion to the latter being the hope of France. On the back was a representation of the chapel.

This Sunday was Prince Albert's birthday, and after the reading of the English service the generous hosts presented him with a fine picture by Meissonier—one of the best things in the Exhibition—and with a very beautifully-carved ivory cup; the Queen had made her presents in the morning, and after breakfast the emperor had caused a grand drum-roll—such as greets the new year—to be sounded by three hundred drums beneath the window.

On the following morning adieux had to be said—and it was really a sad parting with the empress—to whose room the

Queen went to say good-bye. A beautiful fan, and a rose and a heliotrope from the garden, were Eugénie's latest gifts to the Queen, and to "Vicky" a beautiful bracelet, set with rubies and diamonds, and containing her hair. How significant—how full of painful regrets and memories—such gifts may become in after years!

At half-past ten the royal guests were on their way, accompanied by the emperor and empress, to the Tuileries, and passing amidst crowds of people under the Arc de Triomphe. There the final farewells were said to the empress, and the journey was continued to Boulogne, where the attendant royal squadron saluting at sea, and on shore the battalions of the French army filing past in honour of the Queen of England, some of their band playing "Rule Britannia" as they marched, had an indescribably grand effect. There was a visit to the camp in the evening, and the seaport town was all ablaze with illuminations and resonant with music. The Emperor conducted the Queen on board the royal yacht, in which he accompanied his guests some distance out to sea. Then with salutes of hand and cheek, and kindly words of parting, the emperor went down the side to his own barge, which conveyed him to his small yacht to return to Boulogne. "Adieu, madame! Au revoir! Je l'espère bien!" and so a remarkable visit of political no less than of personal interest came to an end.

The question that was being asked everywhere was, When will Sebastopol be taken? To no one in Great Britain had this question the same intense and personal interest that it had to the Queen and her husband. Her Majesty's health, indeed, suffered from the constant strain of anxiety occasioned by the protracted siege. There is a story that one of the royal children, whom Lord Cardigan, when at Windsor, had taken on his knee,

exclaimed to him, "You must hurry back to Sebastopol and take it, else it will kill mama!"

Through the long period of sufferings and privation borne by the allied troops in the Crimea there had been heroic achievements, but appalling suffering and loss of life; and our men now stood, as it were, within reach of the Malakhoff and the Redan, whence they might seize or cripple the great stronghold. In the earlier days of the year after that terrible Crimean winter of 1854, when detachments of men, maimed, wounded, or wasted by sickness, were sent home, the Queen and the Prince visited them in hospital, and strove to cheer and encourage them. Afterwards the Queen urged upon the secretary of war the need for more military hospitals, and better arrangements for the comfort of the patients, and her representations led to the foundation of the great hospital at Netley. On the 18th of May, 1855, special Crimean medals were presented to those officers and soldiers who had been engaged at the Alma, Balaklava, and Inkerman by the Queen herself, who stood on a raised dais on the parade between the Horse Guards and St. James's Palace. It was a touching spectacle when, after the march past, the names of officers and men entitled to the medal were called over, each man going forward to receive the medal which Lord Panmure, secretary at war, handed to her Majesty. The Duke of Cambridge, who had been hotly engaged at Inkerman, where his horse was shot under him, was among the recipients of this special token. Deeply affecting alike to Sovereign and subject was the sight of so many brave soldiers, many of them scarcely able to give the salute, and unable to move forward without assistance. The Queen wrote afterwards to her uncle, King Leopold, a letter which has often been quoted from Sir Theodore Martin's *Life of the Prince Consort*, where it appears. "From

the highest prince of the blood to the lowest private all received the same distinction for the bravest conduct in the severest actions, and the rough hand of the brave and honest private soldier came for the first time in contact with that of their Sovereign and their Queen. Noble fellows! I own I feel as if they were my own children. My heart beats for them as for my nearest and dearest! They were so touched, so pleased—many, I hear, cried; and they won't hear of giving up their medals to have their names engraved upon them, for fear that they should not receive the identical ones put into their hands by me!" Among the maimed was young Sir Thomas Trowbridge, who had lost one leg and the foot of the other at Inkerman, and continued to command his battery till the battle was over, his limbs being raised to prevent too great haemorrhage. He was taken past in a bath-chair to receive his medal, and when the Queen told him she should make him one of her aides-de-camp, replied: "I am amply repaid for everything."

From the time that the troops were detained at Varna, where they died of cholera in such numbers that the beautiful valley where the British camp had been pitched was named by the Turks the "Valley of Death," down to the day when the treaty of peace was signed, the Queen and the Prince Consort used unremitting exertions to ameliorate the condition of the brave' fellows who were engaged in the long and arduous conflict against an enemy who did not regard the humanities which even in war are observed by civilized nations. The Queen expressed the indignation which was felt by her subjects when it became known that the Russians fired shot and shell upon the French and British fatigue parties engaged in burying the dead and succouring not only their own but the enemy's wounded. After the engagement at the Tchernaya, on the 16th of August, 1855,

while the Russians were retreating from the battle-field and the French were at work collecting the enemy's wounded on an open space to await the arrival of the ambulances, the Russians, who could see what was being done, opened fire upon them, without appearing to be concerned by the fact that they were also destroying their own helpless countrymen.

A military inquiry, the institution of which had been expedited by Victoria's denunciations of the atrocities of the Muscovites, had then established the truth of previous barbarities. Writing to King Leopold the Queen said: "Many of our poor officers who were only slightly wounded were brutally butchered on the ground. Several lived long enough to say this. When poor General Sir G. Cathcart fell mortally wounded, his faithful and devoted military secretary (Colonel Charles Seymour), who had been with him at the Cape, sprang from his horse, and with one arm (he was wounded in the other) supported his dying chief, when three wretches came and bayoneted him." This was after the battle of Inkermann, which was fought and won by an inferior force of starving men—starving while the comforting food, drink, and clothing which should have reached them, with the huts that would have sheltered them from the piercing wind and bitter rain and snow, were delayed, landed in the wrong place, or somehow missing, because of the want of organization in the administration at home, and the adherence to a senseless routine which was altogether suited for preventing anything reaching the people for whom it was intended. This, and the wreck of vessels which brought the stores in a violent storm in the Black Sea, made a terrible episode in the struggle. While the troops were fighting, starving and only half-clad, the means of relief were on board vessels separated from the camp by an impassable sea of mud.

The Queen, her ladies, and the elder of the royal children set an example to the nation by working with their own hands to make articles of warm clothing, as well as by sending consignments of comforts for the men. Prince Albert, whose earnest representations and personal efforts resulted in the adoption of his plans for forming a reserve force at Malta, and for preparing a systematic method of despatching and consigning stores, sent warm coats, tobacco, and various comforts for officers and men of his brigade of the Guards, the two battalions of Rifles and the 11th Hussars. The *Times* sent out a commissioner, who admirably distributed medicines, food, and other necessary comforts purchased with contributions sent in to the office of the paper in response to an appeal, and amounting to £15,000, and afterwards increased to above £25,000.

On the 13th of October, 1854, a royal commission was issued for the establishment under the immediate direction of Prince Albert of a "Patriotic Fund" for the relief of the widows and orphans of soldiers, sailors, and marines who might fall in the war. Before the end of the year the contributions had amounted to half a million, and ultimately rose to above a million and a quarter, separate subscriptions being paid for sending additional chaplains to the seat of war. Bazaars, fancy fairs, and various concerts and entertainments were held for the purpose of raising funds, and the royal children exhibited some drawings—of course of a juvenile character—which sold for good prices.

Out of the very need and suffering of this war in the Crimea came many improvements of army administration, and much development of practical sympathy in various directions; but perhaps the most remarkable was that of the voluntary services of ladies who undertook the direction of a band of army nurses for the sick and wounded men in hospital at Scutari. Before

that time no such movement had been attempted, even if it had been thought of, and the innovation was doubtfully received, if not actually resented, by some in authority, and by members of the medical and surgical staff. The time soon came, however, when the names of Florence Nightingale and her devoted sisterhood were mentioned with reverence and deep regard, not only in the wards of the hospital, which they found in dire confusion and succeeded in bringing into order and comfort, but throughout the United Kingdom and on the continent of Europe.

Miss Florence Nightingale, who was the daughter of Mr. William Edward Nightingale of Lea Hurst in Derbyshire, was born in Florence in 1820, and was a lady of considerable attainments, especially in modern languages. From a comparatively early age she desired to devote her abilities to practical benevolent effort, and her gentle but strong and calm religious character led her to regard the charitable care of the sick as her peculiar mission. With the view of preparing herself for this arduous duty she became a visitor of workhouses, hospitals, and other institutions, where she had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with existing methods of dealing with the sick poor. She then entered as a voluntary nurse the Kaiserswerth Hospital at Dusseldorf, and after inquiring into the systems adopted at various institutions in Germany, returned to London and reorganized the sanatorium for governesses in Upper Harley Street, where she became acquainted with Mrs. Sidney Herbert, the wife of the secretary of war, at whose request it was that Miss Nightingale afterwards set out for the Crimea as superintendent of a staff of about forty voluntary and trained nurses, several of whom were ladies of rank and fortune. The work that this devoted band accomplished at Scutari, and the untiring energy and wise direction of the lady who instructed

and managed them, were soon known and appreciated. So rapidly did prejudices disappear that Miss Augusta Stanley, sister of Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, the late Dean of Westminster, took out another staff of forty lady nurses to meet the urgent needs of the great hospital at Scutari, and another which had been opened at Kululee. At that time there were four thousand patients in these two hospitals, and the work could only have been accomplished by the admirable tact and self-devotion of those who had undertaken it.

It need not be said that the Queen manifested deep appreciation of the work of these good women, and that she regarded Miss Nightingale as a personal friend; while for Miss Stanley her Majesty maintained a close and sincere affection for many years afterwards. Upon the return of Florence Nightingale to England in 1856, the national enthusiasm on her behalf demanding some honourable recognition, a testimonial fund was opened, and £50,000 was subscribed, which at her own request was devoted to the establishment of a nurses' training institution, which bore her name.

Sebastopol was taken on the 8th of September, and the news was sent by telegram to Balmoral, where the Queen and Prince Albert, with their children, had arrived on the previous day. The old house had been found quite insufficient for the accommodation of the royal family and the suite, and a new building had been so far completed that a suitable portion of it was ready for occupation. Dinner was over, and the Queen was reading telegraphic despatches which had come from Lord Clarendon, when Lord Granville said, "I have still better news—from General Simpson—Sebastopol is in the hands of the allies." The Queen's joy at the news was very great. "Our delight was great," she writes; "but we could hardly

believe the good news. . . . The new house seems to be lucky indeed, for from the first moment of our arrival, we have had good news."

On the top of a cairn the fagots and materials for a great bonfire had been prepared on a former occasion when a false report had been made of the fall of the Russian stronghold. "In a few minutes," says the Queen, "Albert and all the gentlemen, in every species of attire, sallied forth, followed by all the servants, and gradually by all the population of the village—keepers, gillies, workmen—up to the top of the cairn. We waited and saw them light the bonfire, accompanied by general cheering. It blazed forth brilliantly, and we could see the numerous figures surrounding it, some dancing, all shouting—Ross playing his pipes, and Grant and Macdonald firing off guns continually."

A telegram of congratulation was sent to the Emperor of the French, and there were universal expressions of gratification that the war was at an end. However glorious it may have been for the fame of the allied forces, it had cost so much in human life and human suffering, to say nothing of the vast sum which it added to the national expenditure, that everybody was heartily sick of it, and in France there had been a renewal of manifestations against the prolonged operations of the generals. The French loss was estimated at 63,500 men, the English at 24,000 (including 270 officers), and 2873 were disabled by wounds, or disease, of which so many of both French and English had died in consequence of the hardships and exposure. Above £40,000,000 was added to the national debt, and the result was that Russia had been crippled for a few years—till she could take advantage of a peace which left affairs comparatively little changed so far as the general "situation" was concerned—

and could set about furtively and quietly reinstating Sebastopol. The treaty of peace, which ended the war, was signed on March 30th, but the destruction of the fortifications and the final evacuation of the Crimea by the British forces did not take place till the 12th of July, 1856, and even then much remained to be done in the settlement of the treaties which were to secure peace and check the inordinate demands of Russia.

The last scene—the actual termination of the events directly associated with that great conflict—may be said to have been the first distribution of that much coveted distinction, the Victoria Cross, by the Queen on the 26th of June, 1857. For a long time previously the necessity for providing a suitable decoration for distinguished heroism in the army and navy had been fully recognized, and the brave deeds of a number of men during the Crimean War had accentuated the desire to recognize their valour by some token which should confer upon them especial honour, and be bestowed by the Queen herself.

The warrant for instituting a decoration, to be called the Victoria Cross and to be inscribed "For Valour," had been made out in 1856, and it was understood that the distinction would be conferred on those men who had served in presence of the enemy and had performed some signal act of valour or devotion to their country.

When the list was made up it was found that sixty-two men were entitled to this honour, and it was announced that the decoration would take place in Hyde Park, where early in the morning of the day mentioned more than 100,000 people had assembled, without counting 12,000 who occupied an immense semicircle of raised seats. About 4000 troops kept the open space, and below them, over the royal pavilion, were drawn up the sixty-two men who were the heroes of the day.

FIRST DISTRIBUTION OF THE VICTORIA CROSS

1 was called throughout the country by the British
victorious men, by the army in the Crimea, and by the many acts
of bravery, performed by soldiers of all ranks. At the
war the Queen instituted a decoration as a reward for any
valour exerted in face of the enemy, and the little bronze Maltese cross
which she gave her name has become the most coveted prize of the
British soldier and sailor. The first distribution of the medals, which
are to this day made from Russian cannon captured in the Crimea, took
place on 26th June, 1857, in Hyde Park, London, when the Queen pinned
the decoration on the breasts of sixty-two heroes, in the presence of
numerous crowds. All holders of the Victoria Cross, except officers, including
those who have risen from the ranks, receive an annuity of
£10, which may be increased to £30.

Every heart beat high, as her Majesty appeared at about 10 o'clock riding into the park, mounted on a gray roan, which was her favourite horse. The Queen, who wore a scarlet jacket and black skirt, was attended by Prince Albert, Prince Frederick William of Prussia, and a brilliant suite. She remained on horseback, and, as each of the men to be decorated was brought up to her, she fastened the decoration to his breast amidst the tumultuous cheering of the great assembly. As each man retired the Prince Consort (for only the day before that title had been conferred on Prince Albert by letters patent) saluted him by bowing to him with a gesture of marked respect. The ceremony was grandly significant, and the bronze Maltese cross, with the crown in its centre, surmounted by the lion, and with laurel branches on the clasp from which it depends, supported by the V, has ever since been, as it will surely remain, a priceless distinction, valued by everyone on whom it is conferred, irrespective of any rank save that of conspicuous or undoubted bravery.

The camp at Aldershot had been completed, and on the 18th of April, 1856, Victoria visited it, and having alighted from her carriage, was seen to be prepared for riding along the lines, where 14,000 men were drawn up and presented a front extending for a mile and a half. The Queen rode a chestnut charger richly caparisoned, and to the music of many military bands the men presented arms. Her Majesty then rode to a hill at a little distance, and, surrounded by her staff, witnessed the march past. Remaining till next day in the royal pavilion which had been erected for the accommodation of her Majesty and the Prince, the Queen reappeared to be present at a grand field-day, when 18,000 troops were drawn up on the heights. She wore the uniform of a field-marshal, with the star and ribbon of the Garter, and a dark-blue riding skirt,

and after witnessing with the Prince a series of extensive manœuvres under the direction of General Knollys, returned to Buckingham Palace. A week afterwards there was a review of the great fleet at Spithead, where the number of ships amounted to 240, of which 24 were ships of the line. There were about 100,000 spectators at Portsmouth, and both on sea and shore crowds of spectators were present to witness the magnificent spectacle.

At another review at Aldershot on the 8th of July, when the main body of troops had returned from the Crimea, the Queen was attended by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the King of the Belgians, the Comte de Flanders, the Duke of Cambridge, and Lord Panmure, all in uniform. The weather had been wet, but cleared up, so that the close carriage in which the Queen rode was opened that she might stand up in it and address the officers from the Crimea who had been under fire, and four men of each company and troop, who stood out from the Crimean regiments which had formed three sides of a square round the carriage. In her usual clear and musical tones the Queen said: "Officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, I wish personally to convey through you to the regiments assembled here this day my hearty welcome on their return to England in health and full efficiency. Say to them that I have watched anxiously over the difficulties and hardships which they have so nobly borne, that I have mourned with deep sorrow for the brave men who have fallen in their country's cause, and that I have felt proud of that valour which, with their gallant allies, they have displayed on every field. I thank God that your dangers are over, while the glory of your deeds remains; but I know that should your services be again required, you will be animated with the same devotion which in the Crimea has rendered you invincible."

These few stirring words of confidence, of welcome home, of regret for the sufferings and losses of the army, and of gratitude that the war was at an end, evoked a great shout of "God save the Queen!" and cheers which rang echoing among the hills, and helmets, shakos, and bear-skins were thrown into the air, and waving sabres flashed and gleamed, a fitting prelude to the welcome which on the following day the Queen gave to the Guards returning from the Crimea, as they passed Buckingham Palace.

But there were joys and sorrows apart from these great public occasions—joys of the sweetest, sorrows of the bitterest. It was on the occasion of taking possession of the new house at Balmoral that the news came of the final scene of the gigantic struggle with Russia, and Balmoral had become the synonym for rest and simple family pleasures, undisturbed by cares of rank or state. The Duchess of Kent had so greatly benefited by the air of Deeside that her royal highness had for some time occupied the fine old white house at Abergeldie, so that with her son and daughter, the Prince of Leiningen and the Princess Hohenlohe, when they were her guests, she could often complete the happy family party at Balmoral.

But there were other visitors too, and now that the new ~~castle~~ was finished the number of them would be likely to increase. Of one of the first of them we hear in a letter from Prince Albert to Stockmar on the 13th of September, 1855, in which he says: "Prince Fritz William comes here to-morrow evening. I have received a very friendly letter from the Princess of Prussia." Yes, the youth who was soon to become crown-prince by the accession of his father, William, Prince of Prussia, to the throne of the childless king, had already fixed his affections on the princess royal, who, though yet a child, was remark-

able not only for varied accomplishments, but for the frank kindness which united with a singular self-possession to give her the dignity which always belongs to true simplicity of nature.

There was no other obstacle than the youth of the princess to a betrothal to which the parents of both were favourable; and it was well known that Stockmar, who almost worshipped the princess royal, had long earnestly desired that such an alliance might arise from mutual regard. That had come to pass naturally enough, and when the young prince arrived at Balmoral and with the consent of his parents and of the King of Prussia made his proposal to the Queen and Prince Albert, there was little to be said except that as the princess was so young, and had not yet been confirmed, he must leave her free from any formal engagement till the spring of the following year, when he might fulfil his wish to make his offer to herself without the intervention of family formalities, and thereafter wait for the marriage till after the seventeenth birthday of his betrothed bride.

The conditions may have appeared to be somewhat hard; but as the young prince was there and his suit had been accepted, he was, so to speak, master of the situation, especially as it soon became apparent that the princess was quite aware of his regard, and was inclined to show that she was by no means indifferent to it. It was not very likely that hearts like those of the Queen and Prince Albert would be insensible to the probabilities of these young people having learned the usual language of mutual regard, and it was equally improbable that they would sternly repress any expression of it. At anyrate the Queen does not appear to have been much startled or displeased when a little more than a week afterwards she wrote in her journal: "Sept. 29th, 1855. Our dear Victoria was this day engaged to Prince

Frederick William of Prussia, who had been on a visit to us since the 14th. He had already spoken to us on the 20th of his wishes; but we were uncertain, on account of her extreme youth, whether he should speak to her himself, or wait till he came back again. However, we felt it was better he should do so; and during our ride up Craig-na-Ban this afternoon he picked a piece of white heather (the emblem of 'good luck'), which he gave to her; and this enabled him to make an allusion to his hopes and wishes as they rode down Glen Girnoch, which led to this happy conclusion."

On the 20th of March in the following year the ceremony of the confirmation of the princess took place in the private chapel at Windsor Castle by the Bishop of Oxford (Wilberforce) and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The princess was led in by her father, followed by the Queen and her godfather King Leopold, and beside the royal family the great officers of state and many distinguished personages were present.

The course of the true love of the youthful prince and his betrothed ran smooth, and the faithful lover was of course a frequent visitor to this country. A calamity which might have been most serious to both, occurred in June, while he was in London, but absent from the palace. The princess was sealing a letter at a table when her sleeve caught fire at the candle and she was in the midst of flame. Happily Miss Hildyard, the governess of the children, and Mrs. Anderson were in the room, and succeeded in enveloping the princess in the hearth-rug and so extinguishing the flames. Her arm was badly burned, but she exhibited the most perfect self-possession, asking those present to send for her father, lest the Queen should first hear of the accident and be alarmed by it.

The year closed with a great sorrow in the midst of great

mercies and anticipations of happiness. The Prince of Leiningen, the Queen's half-brother, had for some time late in the year 1856 been suffering from a stroke of paralysis; on the 13th of November he lay dead, having in his later days been attended and consoled by the love and devotion of his sister the Princess Hohenlohe. The grief of the Queen was poignant, for she truly loved her brother and sister. They had all three, she said to her uncle, known but one parent, their mother, and as the Queen grew up the difference of age that had been between them entirely vanished.

On the 14th of April, 1857, only a few weeks before, what may be called the final spectacle associated with the war—the presentation of the Victoria Cross—another princess had been born at Buckingham Palace, and the Queen wrote to King Leopold that she was to be named Beatrice, a fine old name borne by three of the Plantagenet princesses, Mary, after the Princess Mary of Cambridge, "Victoria (after Mama and Vicky, who with Fritz Wilhelm are to be the sponsors), and Feodore" (the Queen's sister). With this reference we pass to another chapter of social and domestic royal life.

END OF VOL. II.